Monday, May 2, 2011 | 12 sections / Vol. 36 / No. 143 / P18 | www.inquirer.net

SPORTS /A28
Europeans sweep Subic int'l triathlon

WORLD /A26
Taliban mount spring offensive

ACROSS /A12
P-Noy orders hunt for mayor's killer

LEARNING /A1
Oscar Lopez extols value of honesty

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

BLESSED JOHN PAUL A giant tapestry of John Paul II (inset) is displayed on the facade of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, during a solemn beatification ceremony for the late Pontiff, which was attended by several hundred thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. The inset is a snap shoot of his sainthood.

'A feast of Catholic faith'

John Paul beatified before 1M pilgrims

VATICAN CITY—He flew around the world as history's most traveled pope. On Sunday, the world came to him.

In the fastest beatification in modern times, the late Pope John Paul II moved a legion of admirers to sainthood as Pope Benedict XVI pronounced him "Blessed," paying tribute to him for showing "the strength of a man" in defending Christianity.

John Paul was beatified in front of a cheering crowd of over a million faithful, which packed St. Peter's Square and surrounding streets, the largest crowd in Rome since his funeral six years ago, police said.

The crowd in Rome and in cupolas around the world erupted in cheers, roars and applause as an enormous photo of a young, smiling John Paul was unveiled over the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica and a choir launched into hymns sung associated with the Polish-born pope.

» FIRST A28

Rosales leads Pinoy pilgrims at beatification ceremony /A28

PAPAL RELIC A woman wipes with a handkerchief the portrait and relic of Pope John Paul II, a piece of cloth taken from his cassock, at Quiapo church in Manila.

Filipino devotees pray for healing miracles at relics of late pontiff

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Helen Flaudoro

WITH CLOSED eyes and a somber face, a young boy quietly touched the marble-encased relic of a historic altar yesterday, praying to blessed Pope John Paul II that his mother be healed from her illness.

The boy was confident that the beloved pontiff, who was beatified in an elaborate ceremony at the Vatican yesterday, would intercede in his prayers, especially that he was raised after the pope.

Carrying the same name made him feel close to him as special link to Pope John Paul.

John Paul Bonilla said his parents named him after the pontiff because he was born exactly the monthsary of the latter stepped out of the plane in Manila during his visit in January 1995 to celebrate World Youth Day.

In his limping stride, the 16-year-old Bonilla roamed in a long queue with his parents and siblings to pray and to touch the al-

PILIPINO A28

LABOR DAY RITES

Noy sees increases in minimum wages

By Christine O. Avendaño

IN A LABOR Day speech, President Aquino yesterday said he expected minimum wage increases in Metro Manila to get a pay raise by next week, and the rest of them across the country within the month.

He did not mention any figure in announcing the "good news" at a breakfast meeting with 50 leaders of 25 labor groups in Malacañang, saying the raise will be decided in regional tripartite wage boards deliberating on petitions for wage increases amid a regime of rising prices triggered by runaway hikes in petroleum prices.

"Maybe we have been tuned to a Labor Day that becomes a Day of Huffing where the groups storm inside in shower us with numbers to make it look good while it ignored workers all through out the year," the President said in his speech in Filipino.

NOY SEES A28

Militants stage rallies nationwide

By Jaymie T. Santi and Inquirer Bureaus

PROTESTERS and activists yesterday marched on the streets of major cities across the country to demand higher wages amid rising prices and to protest contractualization, while the government held jobs fairs in every region.

In Manila, workers and their supporters dressed different shades of dismay over what President Aquino announced at a dialogue with labor leaders on his first Labor Day, describing it as "empty good news."

"He did not address our demands for wage increase. He did not address the protection of job security through oppo-

PROTESTERS A2

Kate's royal task: Beget an heir in 9 months

LONDON—When Kate returns to work with Prince William next week, she will begin exercising the international trial she only has one real responsibility from now on—producing an heir.

KATE'S A31

Merci trial aborted: Winners and losers

By Amanda Dorotiu

ANALYSIS

IMELDAMANIA Marcelino Dueñeras resigned on Friday barely a year shy of the end of her tenure in 2013. The resignation, several aides would have been the first lingering confirmation between President Aquino and the presiding Sandiganbayan justice silencing rumors over the boldness this bachelor, who has been impeached by the House of Representatives and whose office is protected by the Constitution.

The impeachment case against Carpio was regarded

'He foot-dragging in case in ODE' /A2

Gadhafi son killed in missile strike

TRIPOLI, Libya—Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi escaped a blast missile strike in Tripoli that killed one of his sons and three young grandchildren, a government spokesman said early Sunday (hours later, Gadhafi's forces shelled a besieged rebel port in a sign that the air strike had not forced a change in regime tactics).

Nato's attack on a Gadhafi family compound in a residential area of Tripoli on late Saturday signaled escalating pressure on the Libyan leader who has tried to crush an armed rebellion that erupted in mid-February.

The alliance acknowledged that it had struck a "command and control building," but insisted all its targets are military in nature and linked to Gadhafi's unnecessary attacks on the population.

Libyan officials denounced the attack as a crime and violation of international law. However, British Prime Minister David Cameron, without confirmation of Gadhafi's younger son, Seif al-Arab, killed the Libyan leader and his wife were inside, said Libyan government spokesperson Moussa Ibrahim. Seif al-Arab, 29, and three of Gadhafi's grandchildren, all younger than 12, were killed, said Ibrahim.

Journalists taken to the walled complex of one-story buildings saw heavy bomb damage. The blast had torn down the ceiling of one building. Dust and smoke rose from the rubble, which included household items such as smashed toilet bowls.

GADHAFI A14

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

Manila Area: ... | www.inquirer.net | E-mail: ...

'No foot-dragging in case vs GMA'

By Kristine L. Alave

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman said it did not drag its feet on a plunder complaint filed by former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez against former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her Cabinet over the alleged misuse of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) health insurance fund.

In a statement, Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Ballion said they investigated the matter and found no irregularities in the use of the Owwa funds.

She said Chavez and the other parties involved in the case were given a copy of the Ombudsman's Fact Investigation Office (OMB-FIO) report in October 2007.

Aside from Arroyo, the respondents in the case were former Owwa administrator Virgilio delos Santos, former Health Secretary Francisco Duque III, and former Executive Secretary and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Chavez, who filed the complaint in 2004, had argued that the transfer of Owwa's health assistance fund to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) was illegal.

Chavez claimed P926 million in Owwa funds was used by Arroyo from March 2003 to February 2004 to buy and distribute PhilHealth cards to boost her campaign in the 2004 presidential election.

He accused Romulo of "misappropriating" P6 million in Owwa funds for the operating expenses of the Philippine humanitarian assistance group in Iraq.

Romulo, he charged, also asked for the release of $205,000 to finance the "preparatory activities" of the Philippine mission in Kuwait, the purchase of vehicles and the "stockpiling" of supplies in Lebanon, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Egypt and Iran in support of the US-led war in Iraq.

Chavez and Arroyo granted Romulo's request and in her marginal note directed that the funds be sourced from Owwa.

But the Ombudsman's 10-page report concluded that there was not enough evidence to show that the officials had misused the funds, which totaled P530 million, the Ombudsman said.

"(I)nvestigation conducted by the OMB-FIO revealed that there was no actual transfer of the overseas Filipino workers' medicare funds from the Owwa to the PHIC, as alleged in the Commission on Audit technical audition of Owwa," the statement said.

Duque and Angelo have denied any wrongdoing in the handover of the medicare funds to PhilHealth.

According to Duque, the transfer of funds to PhilHealth was backed by executive orders from the President and the Department of Justice.

They justified the Owwa-PhilHealth tieup, saying that the overseas welfare authority did not have the infrastructure and capacity to provide insurances to its members.

Duque said the money was not used for electioneering.

He also said the funds were forwarded to PhilHealth in 2005, and presented checks that showed the funds were transferred in March and April 2005.

As for the accusation against Romulo, the Ombudsman said it did not find anything wrong with the use of Owwa funds for the government's operations in war-torn Iraq.

It said the use of the money was allowed by a memorandum of agreement between the AFP and the Department of Labor and Employment. They had agreed to set aside a contingency fund for "an effective response mechanism for the possible relocation and repatriation of Filipino workers in the areas covered by the conflict in the Middle East."

We Like
University of Perpetual Help

The University of Perpetual Help has been providing quality education for more than 40 years. They nurture their students to become competent professionals who get employed not only in the country but also abroad. As a school known for board topnotchers, they offer excellent academic programs in the following:

- International Hospitality Management
- Maritime Education
- Medical and Allied Health
- Engineering
- Computer Studies
- Aviation
- Business
- Arts and Sciences
- Criminology
- Architecture
- Education
- Law
- Graduate School
- Business High School
- Regular High School
- Grade School
- Pre-School
- TESDA Programs
- Short Term Courses

In their commitment to quality education, they provide their students with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. Maritime students have access to a full mission bridge simulator. The HRM and Tourism programs are housed in a fully equipped building designed specifically to simulate experience relative to their respective field. How awesome is that!

With NO TUITION FEE INCREASE this coming school year and EASY PAYMENT schemes to avail just make it much better. Thank you Perpetual!

UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP System

Check it out today! Visit www.perpetualdalta.edu.ph or www.uphsl.edu.ph

'Circus didn't come to town'

THE PUBLIC has just been spared not only from a circus but from a "measure of political valor" with Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez's resignation.

PNOY, the impeachment trial shelved, there won't be the spectacle of lawmakers pestering for pabitin, said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday.

"In many ways, I'm glad the issue has been resolved. I was afraid it would turn out to a circus – ignorant people making all kinds of crude statements about legal processes they're not acquainted with, and private people moaning for senator who would rare and rare on the back out of their existence but on what would land them in the front pages," she said in an interview.

Santiago said some of her colleagues were not acquainted with the judicial process and would have had to rely on "outside consultants" to guide them.

"So their grandstand for issues will be superficial. They will tend to be susceptible to a populist philosophy. What they think the public wants is what they will give them," she said. TJ Burgonio

Cool and Refreshing

₱12,788

CITYLAND We commit, we deliver.

812-2222 • 687-3333
567-3333 • 242-1212
CITYLAND.net

Because You Asked For It...
SUMMER SALE - Extended!

Be Hair-Free.
Be Bikini-Ready.

50% OFF

LASERLIGHT HAIR REMOVAL ON ALL AREAS from May 2-7, 2011

Stop the shaving and waxing right now. It's time to switch to something permanent. LaserLight gets rid of unwanted hair anywhere on your body for good. No more irritating stubble and ingrown hair. No more ugly chicken skin. No more embarrassing dark, rough patches on your underarms, bikini area and legs. Be smooth, even-toned and hair-free all over. Get Bikini-Ready with LaserLight.

Call 892-SKIN (7546)

facial care CENTRE

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph
MAKATI • ORTIGAS • TOMAS MORATO • BINONDO • ALABANG • BAGUIO • LUNETA • PAMPANGA • CEBU

LASERLIGHT HAIR REMOVAL

Whiter, hair-free skin, for good!

Imagine how carefree life can be! Like Rana, Amanda, and Delamar, enjoy the feeling of having smoother, whiter, hair-free skin, permanently! Stop shaving, plucking, and waxing that cause skin to darken and roughen. End the embarrassment of having unsightly hair in all the wrong places. Confidently bare silky-smooth skin on your legs, underarms, bikini area and on any part of your body with Facial Care Centre's LaserLight Hair Removal!

The Technology

LaserLight Hair Removal is an effective and painless procedure that permanently eliminates unwanted hair on any part of your body. Its US-FDA approved diode laser releases light energy pulses that penetrate the pigment of the hair follicle, destroying it in the process. Aside from the hair removal, skin will be visibly whiter and smoother because it doesn't have to go through hair removal methods that cause friction and darkening. After just a few sessions, skin will be virtually hair-free!

The Women Who Love LaserLight

AMANDA GRIFFIN-JACOBI, MODEL

"I'd often get skin irritations with [illegible] hair removal methods like waxing and shaving. After I tried LaserLight, my underarms became smooth! And I don't have to worry about removing my underarm hair anymore!"

RIMA OSTWANI, MODEL

"Before, I'd just shave. If I had enough time, I'd wax, but it's painful. With LaserLight, everything's so painless and hassle-free! I never have to shave or wax again. LaserLight is the best!"

DELAMAR, [illegible] JOCKEY

"With LaserLight, I never have to worry about shaving again. It zapped away my underarm hair for good. My underarms are now smoother and whiter!"

Call now for a free consultation: 892-SKIN (7546), 233-7631 (Cebu) and 961-3404 (Pampanga).

This early, sign up to vote in 2012

THE COMMISSION on Elections will resume tomorrow the registration of voters and validation of registration records even though the next midterm elections are more than two years away.

In a statement, Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez called on all qualified voters to register early to avoid the usual rush just before the Oct. 31, 2012, deadline.

"Any Filipino citizen, who is at least 18 years of age, a resident of the Philippines for at least one year, and living in the place where he intends to vote, for at least six months immediately preceding the election, may file their application for registration," said Jimenez.

He said the continuing registration would use biometric technology or an automated photograph, fingerprint and signature-taking system.

Applications for registration, transfer of registration records, change/correction of entries in the registration records, inactivation of registration records, and inclusion of registration records/reinstatement of name in the list of voters, must be personally filed.

Jimenez said applicants need only bring a valid identification card or document when they register. Community tax certificates (cedulas) and barangay certifications will not be honored.

The local Comelec offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Saturday, including holidays. Jeremiah Arditi

FOTON GO ASENSO! PROMO

Ang ka-partner mo sa negosyo... KAYANG KAYA NA!

VIEW
LOW DOWNPAYMENT*
₱177,600
with
FREE 3 years LTO registration, 1 year comprehensive insurance, chattel mortgage
or
FREE 2 Months Amortization
Start paying on the 3rd month

LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT**
₱10,865/mo.
or
₱363/day
Only!

EXTENDED

Promo period until JUNE 15, 2011

Other Passenger Models	Low Downpayment with FREE ... or FREE 2 Months Amortization	Low Monthly Payment
MPX	₱224,000	...
BLIZZARD	₱134,000	...

Hurry! Get ahead with your business! Visit your nearest dealer now.

FOTON

TOLL-FREE NO.: 1800-10-3FOTON (36866)
HOTLINE: (02) 459-2121

Email: ina@foton.com.ph • www.foton.com.ph

A Lopez Group Company

First Gen
The Energy to Care
The Power to Care

The grass is greener on our side.

An everyday scene at our 132-MW Pantabangan-Masiway Hydroelectric plant in Nueva Ecija.

At First Gen, we make use of our country's rich resource of clean and green energy.

As the country's leading electricity generating company, our plants use indigenous fuel resources like geothermal, natural gas and hydroelectric energy. Our aim is to meet the Filipinos' growing demand for power and help the country achieve energy self-sufficiency with the smallest carbon footprint possible.

THINK BIG. THINK TIP ENGINEERING.

FIRST SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN JUNE 13, 2011

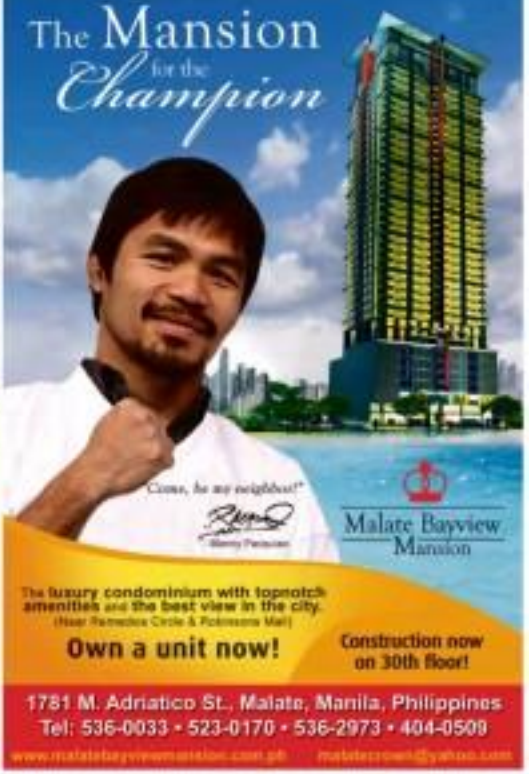
THE TIP ACADEMIC SCORECARD

TIP QUEZON CITY	TIP MANILA
AUTONOMOUS Status from the CHED	DEREGULATED Status from the CHED
Quality Management System Certified to ISO 9001:2000 since 1999	Quality Management System Certified to ISO 9001:2000 since 1999
CHED Center of Development in Civil Engineering (CE)	CHED Center of Development in Computer Engineering (CpE)
CHED Center of Development in Computer Engineering (CpE)	CHED Center of Development in Information Technology Education (ITE)
CHED Center of Development in Information Technology Education (ITE)	Nine (9) Level II Programs Status from PAAP PACUCOA in CE, EE, ME, Math, CpE, IE, IT
Seven (7) Level III Reaccredited Status from PAAP PACUCOA in CE, EE, ME, Math, CpE, IE, IT	Two (2) Level II Programs Status from PAAP PACUCOA in ME, IE
Two (2) Level II First Reaccredited Status from PAAP PACUCOA in ME, IE	

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES

www.tip.edu.ph

The Mansion for the Champion



"Come, be my neighbor!"

Manny Pacquiao

Malate Bayview Mansion

The luxury condominium with topnotch amenities and the best view in the city.
(Near Remedios Circle & Robinsons Mall)

Own a unit now!

Construction now on 30th floor!

1781 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila, Philippines
Tel: 536-0033 • 523-0170 • 536-2973 • 404-0509

www.malatebayviewmansion.com.ph malatebayview@yahoo.com

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

CORE POWER + BIOMETRICS with GREAT SKIN

"I lost 78 lbs. of fat & cellulite and won the Great Body Contest."
- Charlene Medina

BEFORE

Get an Ageless Body, with a Great Skin.

"I lost 34 lbs.

It improved the quality of my life! I feel and look 15 years younger."

-Bernie Lirag
61 yrs. old

ALL OUR FULL PROGRAMMES ARE GUARANTEED!

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!

- NO MONTHLY DUES OR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

IPL Skin REJUVENATION

to give you a supple, radiant, blemish-free & younger skin!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333
SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771
MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (754663771)

ABRAHAM GALATE (Manila) · ALABANG (Mall) · BINONDO (Manila) · CALOOCAN (Mall) · CEBU (Luzon) · EMERALD (Pasig) · ST. DELA COSTA (Mall) · GREENHILLS (Mall) · MEGAMALL (Mall) · PASAY (Mall) · PUERTO (Mall) · SM MARIKINA (Luzon) · SM NORTH (Luzon) · UP ECC (Mall)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph * inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ATTENTION LAWYERS

30TH MCLE SEMINAR

(Set 30-unit MCLE course)

May 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2011

Units earned can be credited to the first, second, third or fourth compliance period.

LEGIS FORUM, INC.

Legis Forum, Inc.

FOR INQUIRIES:

AIRREX TUNAY NA LAMIG!

LOWEST PRICE
HEAVY DUTY
HAND PALLET TRUCK
P11,999.00
LIMITED QUANTITY
2 YEARS QUALITY
FREE DELIVERY WITHIN METRO MANILA

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Brand X

need a job?

WaterCare

Crystal Clear

Always
SAFE &
RELIABLE

642.4489 641.2406

KONIG

LIBRE Classifieds
EVERY THURSDAY IN INQUIRER LIBRO

YERONG MAAASAHAN,
GANDANG PANGMATAGALAN!

The most number of roofing profiles available in the Philippines

DWIGHTSTEEL
BUILDING SYSTEMS, INC.
Excellence Measured by Time

Let's see... you're 36 years old, and *you're 35 lbs. overweight*. But this year you want to expand your business, build a new house, learn to snowboard, and attend your high school reunion?

Isn't your health more important?

Zunic
slimming & body sculpting
www.zunic-om.com

Why not lose those unwanted pounds and inches, first?
Visit Zunic *today* and do it *the fast and easy way!*

MAKATI | QUEZON CITY | ALABANG | ORTIGAS CTR | MANILA

Call Now! 8300-800

Yemen assures Pinoys' safety

YEMEN has committed to ensure the safety of some 1,000 Filipino workers in the country.

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Qirbi made the assurance during a meeting with Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario in Sana'a, the Yemeni capital, on Saturday.

The two diplomats discussed "issues of mutual concern" between the Philippines and Yemen.

Del Rosario was accompanied by Philippine Ambassador-designate to Riyadh Inandin Tago, who has diplomatic jurisdiction over Yemen.

Tago earlier told the Inquirer that the Filipino community in Yemen had ignored the government's call to voluntary leave the country due to the mounting unrest there.

"No Filipino has left Yemen or relocated to another country," Tago said in text message.

Before Yemen, Del Rosario flew to Libya on Friday to "assess the political situation in Syria and check the condition of 17,000 Filipinos there," said foreign Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya, also DFA spokesperson. Jerry E. Esplanada

Good Location, Good View.
BAGUIO
VACATION
APARTMENTS

BIG SALE!
COPYTRADE.

NO LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN CUT

"We're sure my Toyota will always be there for us."

The Toyota Advantage of **Worry-Free Maintenance** makes sure you can always count on your vehicle.

TOYOTA SURE ADVANTAGE
Ask your Toyota dealer about it.
TOYOTA

Premiere Bank Designer ATM Cards
As cool as you want.
Add a personal or corporate touch to your ATM card.
How cool is that?
It's all in the cards.
Premiere Bank

Aeta folk join 'Walk for John Paul'

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

MORONG, Bataan—The Aeta people of Bataan are thankful that the beatification of Pope John Paul II, who visited a refugee center in their community and celebrated Mass in 1981, has brought attention to their needs.

"We are happy about the beatification of Pope John Paul II. His assumption to sainthood validated claims to Aetas," said Rodolfo Fernandez, 55, chieftain of the Aeta in the area.

He and at least 1,000 people joined more than 300 devotees through a 5-km walk to celebrate the late Pope at 6 a.m. Sunday.

The "Walk for Pope John Paul II" began at the newly built shrine for the Pontiff inside the 360-hectare Bataan Technology Park Inc. (former site of Philippine Refugee Processing Center) and ended at Sitio Nimawan in Barangay Binuangan here.

Fernandez said the Aeta people were living near the shrine, built through the efforts of the Bataan Technology Park Inc. (BTP) and the Catholic Diocese of Balanga. The shrine will be opened at 1 p.m. today.

The walk kicked off a series of activities across the country that honored the Pontiff's beatification. The activities will last until today.

The trek was long and at times perilous. Hikers, guided by Aetas, had to cross a hanging bridge, which was built in 1984, to reach Nimawan.

A bridge and roads are what the Aeta community needs from government or concerned groups, Fernandez said.

The community surrenderees from mountainside because its residents have access to a spring, he said.

Retired Commodore Amado Aseñas, BTP's vice president and chief operating officer, and other participants, who signed up but did not make it to the walk, were able to send donations for the Aeta of Nimawan.

Some participants belong to the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization. Addressing them, Aseñas said the shrine stood on land that used to host a chapel where the PRPC was operating in the area.

Faraflac cherished

In Pampanga, couple Nestor and Marites Bhagat shared photographs, souvenirs and stories about their encounter with John Paul II.

The Bhagats renewed their wedding vows 30 years ago, on June 15, 1981, at a chapel inside Imelda's mansion. It was officiated by 16 priests led by Marites's younger brother, Fr. Christopher Bautista.

The couple and their four children met John Paul II the following day. "Friends and relatives working at the Vatican management gave us a schedule [to see the Pope] a few hours before our flight out of Rome," Nestor said.

Marites said the one thing that she cherished about the Pope was the inspiration he gave to families. "In this year dedicated to God bless your family," Marites said, quoting the Pontiff. She said the Pope uttered a

(CONTINUED ON A-19)

STOP BAD BREATH
Get rid of bad breath, halitosis, dry mouth, and taste disorders with Therabreath
Rigorously proven by Dr. Harold Katz
HORMALIFE PHILIPPINES

MCLE FOR LAWYERS
Seminar on Corporate Law, Tax, Labor and Litigation
18th MCLE - May 23, 24, 27 & 28, 2011
Sponsored by: ChanRobles Law Net, Inc.
REGISTER ONLINE at www.chanrobleslaw.com

Mayo nice!

Spread the word! Low fares this May!

DOMESTIC	LiteFARE
₱499	Manila to Virac
₱589	Manila to Ceron (Basuanga), Iloilo or San Jose (Mindoro)
₱649	Manila to Bacolod, Catbalogan, Catarman, Cebu, Kalibo, Legazpi, Naga or Tuguegarao Cebu to Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro, Dumaguete, Iloilo or Tacloban
₱699	Cebu to Ozamiz or Surigao Davao to Cagayan de Oro
₱749	Manila to Puerto Princesa, Tacloban or Tagbilaran Cebu to Davao
₱999	Manila to Dumaguete, Laoag or Roxas
₱1,099	Manila to Boracay (Caticlan) or Cauayan (Isabela) Cebu to Boracay (Caticlan), Butuan, Clark, Dipolog, Puerto Princesa, Siargao or Zamboanga Davao to Iloilo
₱1,299	Cebu to General Santos or Pagadian Davao to Zamboanga
₱1,449	Manila to Cagayan de Oro, Davao or Zamboanga Cebu to Legazpi
₱1,849	Manila to Butuan, Calbaiog, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamiz, Pagadian or Surigao

INTERNATIONAL	LiteFARE
₱1,599	Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Singapore Clark to Hong Kong
₱2,099	Manila to Guangzhou or Taipei Clark to Singapore
₱2,599	Manila to Hong Kong or Macau Cebu to Hong Kong Clark to Macau
₱3,099	Manila to Brunei or Ho Chi Minh Cebu to Singapore
₱3,599	Manila to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur Clark to Bangkok
₱4,099	Manila to Busan*, Incheon or Jakarta Cebu to Busan or Incheon
₱4,599	Manila to Beijing or Shanghai
₱5,999	Manila to Osaka

Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are non-refundable. Fares are exclusive of government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. At time of booking, you purchase your baggage allowance to save time and money at check-in. Valid seat sale terms and conditions at cebupacificair.com and are available online or via reservations@cebupacificair.com. Valid for travel from 02 May 2011 to 31 May 2011. Seats are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Subject to change without prior notice.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

BDO

THE DAILY GOSPEL

MAY 2 (Monday)
Feast or Weekday
Alternative: 2nd Week of Easter
Ps 2:2-3, 4-7a, 7b-8
Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord.

1st Reading: Acts 4:23-31

As soon as Peter and John were set free, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard it, they raised their voices as one and called upon God, "Sovereign Lord, maker of heaven and earth, of the sea and everything in them, you have put these words in the mouth of David, our father and servant, and you spoke through the Holy Spirit: 'Why did the pagan nations rage and the people conspire in folly? The kings of the earth were aligned and the princes gathered together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'

For indeed in this very city Herod and Pontius Pilate, and the pagan nations with the people of Israel conspired against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They, indeed, they brought about whatever your powerful will had decided from all time would happen. But now, Lord, see their threats and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal and to work signs and wonders through the Name of Jesus your holy servant." When they had prayed, the place where they gathered together shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.

Gospel: Jn 3:1-8

Among the Pharisees there was a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus, a member of the sect by night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you have come from God to teach us, for no one can perform miraculous signs like yours unless God is with him." Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again from above."

Nicodemus said, "How can there be rebirth for a grown man? Who could go back to his mother's womb to be born again?" Jesus replied, "Truly I say to you: No one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Because of this, don't be surprised when I say: 'You must be born again from above.' The wind blows where it pleases and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

forthcoming

It's not hard to inquire to clarify our faith. God is never diminished by our honest inquiry but is glorified by our wise use of God's gift of intelligence. After all, He who is the source of all Truth has nothing to fear or hide. That is why, go ahead, wrestle with your faith and your messages and literature in your mind's eye to find the fleshiness of our times continue to listen and search for truth in the service of the community.

P-Noy: Cases vs GMA not a priority

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday reiterated the government's priorities in the impending changes against former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, but stressed that for sure the priority was not dead a sure. One spokesman to replace Merceditas Gutierrez, who is stepping down on May 6.

The President said he wanted the new Ombudsman to be "dedicated" and courageous in pursuing justice for the government.

Speaking in separate talks during a Labor Day breakfast for labor leaders in Malacañang, Mr. Aquino was asked if the government was lining up cases against Arroyo now that Gutierrez—whom he had described as the obstacle to the government's bid to file cases against the former president and her allies—was on the way out.

Sufficient

Mr. Aquino said the Truth Commission was "set up primarily to get rid of that hatred," and that the cases that had been "deposited" with the presidential family—which has yet to convene pending the Supreme Court's final decision on the constitutionality of its creation—were "sufficient."

"We are closer to actually filing charges where appropriate," the President said.

But he added: "Can I say it's difficult to say that it's directed to specific individuals at this point in time. There's still a process that has to be followed but we will make the appropriate announcements to the users that are ready for filing at the moment possible time."

Big buzz

He said the focus now was on finding a new Ombudsman, adding that he was awaiting the list of nominees from the Judicial and Bar Council.

Meanwhile, two members of the ruling Liberal Party, which Mr. Aquino heads, are on the short list for the new Ombudsman which will be submitted to the President.

Former Sen. Feliciano Tañada and former Agriculture Secretary Inno Ville are generating the "biggest buzz" among the candidates for Gutierrez's replacement.

Known to fight administration and former Chief Justice Reynato Puno had declined the President's offer of the Ombudsman post. Christine O. Avendaño and Cid Cabucungan

TRAVEL PLAZA
INCORPORATED
2011 PACKAGE TOURS
EUROPE MARIAN PILGRIMAGE
May 15, 2011
HOLYLAND w/ JORDAN & EGYPT
May 20, 2011
EASTERN EUROPE
May 22, 2011
PLUS: Anghor Wat, Tokyo, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand
travelplan, inc.
Libre? For Sale!
Super Summer Getaways
LOT OWNERS
HOMEWELL
"BUY ONE TAKE ONE $159"
Mountain World Travel, Inc.
DOLJUNTS
CHEAP
AIRLINE TICKETS & TOURS
24 hours Flight Reservation visit
www.mytravel.com.ph
MIT
MANILA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
SANS TRAVEL & TOURS
China Panorama
International Horticultural Exposition 2011
Xi'an China
Around CHINA Tours
PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
RAKSO TRAVEL
(02) 812-9667
BEIJING-SHANGHAI COMBO
SUMMER GETAWAY
KOREA
SPLENDID RUSSIA
SPECTACULAR KOREA
DAZZLING KOREA
AUSTRALIA 2-CITIES
AUSTRALIA 4-CITIES
CAPTIVATING ANCIENT GREECE
MYSTICAL TAIWAN
HISTORICAL NEW DELHI & JAIPUR
HOLY LAND
Child FREE To GO!
USD 109
3DAYS/2 NIGHTS
ADDITIONAL RATES
ONE CHILD GOES FREE
WITH 2 PAYING ADULTS
get hired
www.jobmarketonline.com

Worldwide aid group's founder feted by Time

TIME magazine has named the founder of the Tzu Chi humanitarian, Buddhist nun Cheng Yen, one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2011.

She founded the organization in 1966 at the age of 29, starting with 30 support... housewives who saved 50 Taiwan cents from their grocery money each day to help the poor.

It is now an international organization providing relief in 75 countries to people suffering from disasters.

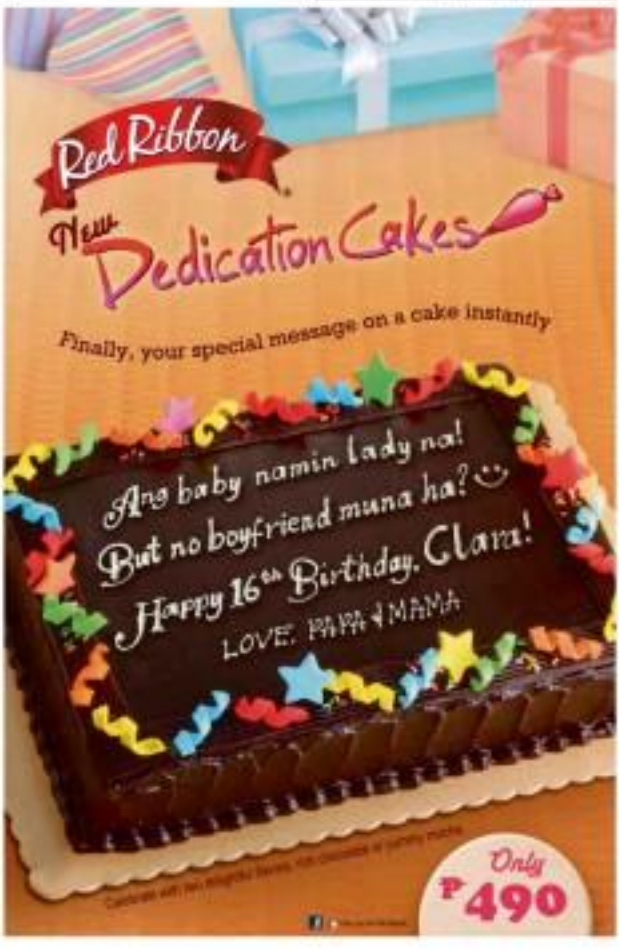
In the Philippines, there are chapters manned by volunteers that were on the scene within hours of typhoons battering Metro Manila, Aklan, Mergues, Baguio City, Bulacan, and other provinces and localities.

"This acknowledges the love of Tzu Chi people around the world," Cheng said. "It also shows that love in Taiwan's most precious gift to the world. With a heart full of deep appreciation, we face the disasters of the world and awaken the love of everyone so that they share it with mankind."

Cheng ranked 38th on the Time list.

The publication described Cheng, who turned 74 on April 26, as a spiritual guru with an "ethereal quality," and a "well-rounded, no-nonsense head of a nonprofit humanitarian machine with divisions in 50 countries and nearly 10 million supporters and volunteers."

The full list will appear in Time's May 2 issue. It could also be viewed on its website.



UNO Manufactured by:
FIVE E Plastic Manufacturing Inc.
(FEPMI)
Address: Libo, Naval, Carcahuisan, Cebu, Philippines
Office Hours: Monday to Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Tel: (6332) 366-4283, 318-6498
Fax: (6332) 424-6269
Web: www.fepmi.com Email: sales@fepmi.com
Leave an instant message via our Yahoo IM: fepmi
Follow us on Facebook: fepmi tina

Assistant Editor Tony Benigno

Across the NATION

Noy orders hunt for mayor's killer

Reynaldo Uy shows his certificate of candidacy for Calbayog City mayor during the May 10, 2010 elections

By Joey A. Gabieta Inquirer Visayas and Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Aquino has ordered a manhunt for the killer of Calbayog City Mayor Reynaldo Uy, who was shot dead on Saturday night while attending a cultural presentation at the covered court in Hinabangan town in Samar province.

Uy was the provincial chairman of the Liberal Party.

Uy was shot while he and other guests stood as they were about to sing "The Lord's Prayer" before the start of the program.

As Uy fell, the bullet ricocheted and hit the right arm of Samar Board Member Erasmo Babalcon, who was standing next to Uy at the presidential table.

Both Uy and Babalcon were brought to the Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban City, about 60 kilometers from Hinabangan, past 12 p.m.

Uy, 59, died while undergoing surgery at the operating room at 12:30 p.m.

Noting Samar's "tradition of violence," the President said during a Labor Day breakfast meeting with reporters that he had directed Philippine National Police Director General Raul Bacalzo to immediately "secure that they cheapest down the entire province to prevent anymore instances of violence."

"I pressed Raul Bacalzo to ensure a speedy investigation... and the arrest of the people behind this dastardly act," Mr. Aquino told reporters during a breakfast meeting in Malacañang.

"We don't want this incident to be a precursor of even more violence as I can assure the people in the province of Biry Uy, the police, together with the armed Forces, will exert maximum effort."

Chief Supt. Arnold Bevilla, police director for Eastern Visayas, said several angles were being looked into in the killing of Uy, former congressman of Samar's first district.

"But we cannot set aside the possibility that politics could be one of the motives considering the present political condition there in Samar," he added.

Uy was one of the Samar officials who endorsed the recall petition against Samar Gov. Sharee Ann Tan and her younger brother, Vice Gov. Antonio Tan.

In January, the Commission on Elections dismissed the recall petition to be sufficient in form and substance.

Although the date of the recall election had yet to be set, Uy was reportedly planning to run for governor with 2010 vice mayor Babalcon as his running-mate.

Babalcon, for his part, could not be reached for comment through her mobile phone.

In previous interviews, the councilwoman she would not be cowed because she enjoyed the trust and confidence of her constituents.

Uy was in Hinabangan on Saturday on the occasion of Mayor Alex Abarrientos, because the municipality was to celebrate its fiesta on Sunday.

Uy and his group arrived at the house of Mayor Abarrientos about 8 p.m.

They then walked to the covered court, about 100 meters away, to watch a cultural presentation, which would start at 9:30 p.m.

Just as the Lord's Prayer was about to start, a single shot was fired and Uy fell.

"I was about 10 meters away from where Mayor Uy was. I saw him falling with blood all over him," said Calbayog City Administrator Emerito Montecillo.

Big loss

Villareal Mayor Octaaro Latayre rushed to Uy and picked him up. The mayor and Board Member Babalcon, who was hit by a stray bullet, were then rushed to the hospital in Tacloban.

Autopsy report showed that an M-16 rifle was used in the shooting.

A bullet for a .45-caliber pistol was found near the concrete fence of the covered court where the lone gunman positioned himself when he shot Uy about 10 meters away.

Vice Mayor Rosendo Aquino urged the police to identify and arrest the gunman and mastermind.

"Mayor Uy's death is a big loss to all Calbayoganons. He was responsible for the development of Calbayog and he was well-loved by the people," said Aquino who would take over as mayor with Uy's death.

Uy's son, Councilor Rey James Uy, would assume the post of vice mayor being the number one city councilor.

Throughout his political career, Uy was a loyal member of the Liberal Party and served as its provincial chairman.

Mr. Aquino said he cannot promise that there would be no crimes in the country.

"What I can promise is that the government will not stop pushing behind fact everybody who violates the law," the President told reporters.

He also said his government was now working to increase the number of policemen and soldiers as he stressed that "we still have the same number of security forces in the country as was existing 25 years ago in Cebu."

FIESTA ECONOMY CLASS ROUND-TRIP

As low as

160 HONG KONG / MACAU / TAIPEI
218 SINGAPORE
248 BANGKOK / GUAM / HO CHI MINH
258 JAKARTA
288 SHANGHAI
308 BEIJING
420 OSAKA
438 FUKUOKA / NAGOYA / NARITA
CEBU-TOKYO
598 DELHI
710 MELBOURNE / SYDNEY
968 HONOLULU
1318 LAS VEGAS / LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO

MABUHAY BUSINESS CLASS ROUND-TRIP

As low as

470 TAIPEI
500 BANGKOK
570 HONG KONG
MACAU
580 HO CHI MINH
670 SINGAPORE
690 JAKARTA
730 GUAM
770 SHANGHAI
870 BEIJING
1100 OSAKA
1160 FUKUOKA / NAGOYA
NARITA
1600 DELHI
1608 HONOLULU
2200 MELBOURNE
SYDNEY
2738 LAS VEGAS
3028 LOS ANGELES
SAN FRANCISCO

All in Manila to Cebu. Validity period: May 2 to 31, 2011
Travel Periods: May 2 to July 31, 2011 | May 2 to August 31, 2011 for Fiesta Class to Honolulu, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco
May 2 to December 15, 2011 for Fiesta Class to Osaka, Fukuoka, Nagoya, Narita and Mabuhay Class to Honolulu, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco

Book and buy through
www.philippineairlines.com
using MasterCard or Visa credit card.
To purchase tickets at PAL ticket offices or your travel agency.
You may also call PAL Reservations Manila (02) 855-8888 or Cebu (032) 340-8181.

• All in fare inclusive of surcharge • Exclusive of government taxes
• Fares and surcharges are non-refundable • Rebooking is allowed with charge
• Subject to seat Advance Bitter • Limited seats • Other fare conditions apply

Philippine Airlines 70
Asia's first, shining through

Cat is 15th 'body' found in landslide

DAVAO CITY – Forensic, not 31, is the total number of bodies recovered in the landslide in Barangay Kingking in Mandaan, Compostela Valley the military on Saturday said.

The 15th body was that of a cat.

The military on April 26 reported that five bodies were found in the landslide site. This prompted the media to report 31 as the total number of bodies recovered.

But Maj. Jacob Obligado, commanding officer of the 71st Infantry Battalion, said that of the five bodies found in the landslide area on April 16, only four were recovered.

Several reporters on that day he said, were trapped due to heavy rains, which could trigger another landslide.

Days after, when the weather permitted, the retrieval team returned to where the supposed "human hair" was seen, and found out that it was a cat.

Obligado said the two more bodies were recovered on Saturday, bringing to only 14 the total bodies retrieved.

At least nine more remain remained in the list of missing persons.

"So we have now 14 dead and one retrieve to be identified and 9 still missing," Obligado told the Inquirer by phone.

Jerome Aji Santos, Inquirer Mindanao

NorthRail suspends engineers, architects

GUAGUWA, Bulacan—Soaring yesterday. Labor Day, about 78 more members, engineers and architects of the North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) lost their jobs after working for the still-authorized railway project since 2008.

Many of these workers were the technicians who designed and laid out the foundations for the railway that would connect Caloocan City to the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga, said Jessie John Danies, president of the Union Employees of NorthRail (UEN).

What made it worse for the workers was that many of them joined NorthRail after surviving the 2008 world recession that cost many overseas Filipino workers their lucrative jobs, Rafael said.

Quoting the workers, he said: "We chose to work here. We turned our backs on high-paying jobs abroad because we were convinced that working for NorthRail meant we could use our gifts to service to our countrymen ... but here we are, about to lose our jobs."

NorthRail president Conrad Tolentino had unveiled on April 14 a formal notice of temporary suspension from work.

The notice said that "the contractual obligations between NorthRail and [Chinese contractor] Sinomach for Phase 1 Section 1 have been suspended effective March 28, 2011, and consequently there is a suspension of operations in undertaking the NorthRail project."

NorthRail is rehabilitating the 88.2-kilometer north line of the old Philippine National Railways (PNR) using a $345.03-million loan from China. The actual project cost has ballooned to $421 million.

The contract's suspension had been attributed to a government review of the project covering its slow progress, according to an April 28 statement by Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus.

The delays have led to a six-month work suspension for 70 NorthRail employees beginning May 1, although workers here believe the suspension would eventually lead to their termination if the contract's suspension extends beyond October this year.

NorthRail has 168 workers. Forty of the 78 workers whose work was suspended handle high-level technical work for the project management office of the NorthRail railways operations group.

Rafael said even after being notified about their suspension, the technicians still worked during their break to complete sections of the project.

"This is a lovely Labor Day gift for us. That's the day we lose our jobs. We urge President Aquino to directly intervene in double-timing and proceed with the NorthRail project as management will no longer have any reason to remove us," said Sheila Mercado, one of the workers facing suspension.

Art Ving, senior manager for corporate and public affairs of the NorthRail, said the firm welcomes the contract review for the company believes the railway project would be cleared soon as NorthRail could fulfill its contract by 2012.

"We can still cope and meet the 2012 target completion and operation of the NorthRail that is why we are hoping the construction will speed up [as soon as] the ongoing review [is completed]," he said. — Gerneda Reyes-Zaragoza, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mayor, cops disperse protesters in Cagayan town

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Tension gripped the coastal town of Gattaya in Cagayan on April 28 when the mayor and his armed police escorts stopped a rally against black sand mining in three villages there.

Mayor Carlos Bonoseros allegedly wanted participants against holding the rally and supposedly dropped a protester, Ronnie Retuzlan, as the group convened inside the compound of Saint Anthony Academy in Barangay Parabellar, said Wilmer Santos, president of the Barangay Upland Labors ti Mina, a people's organization.

The mayor also reportedly smashed the digital camera of another protester, Joel Cagatan, as she documented the confrontation.

Insight he continued, Bonoseros admitted that he confronted the rally group and had destroyed Garma's camera, but he denied supporting black sand.

"I am the father of this town and I am doing everything I can to bring what is for the good of my people. I am not used to having rallies in my town, so it is also normal for me to get upset and in the process, say or do things that may be inappropriate," he said in a telephone interview.

According to Santos, about 5,000 residents from the towns of Santa Ana, Santa Teresita, Gonzaga, Buguey, Aparri, Camalaniugan, Lallo, Gattaran and Baggao signed up to attend the Saturday rally, which was aimed at condemning the black sand mining in the northern coastal villages of Cagayan.

The group alleged that the provincial government had issued black sand exploration permits to two Chinese firms, Hanshi Mining and Trading Corp. and Liaoning Stone Carving Corp., without consulting the affected communities.

Barangay Caniguan Labas: it was claimed that the government had tolerated the suspensive and operations of the two companies despite evidence of violations.

"The law mandates that only manual labor shall be used in small-scale mining, but the companies are using heavy equipment. They have also disregarded the rule that no mining shall be conducted 500 meters away from public and private infrastructure," Santos said.

He said the group had asked Bonoseros for a permit to stage the rally but the latter refused, saying that the grounds cited by the group for staging the rally were baseless.

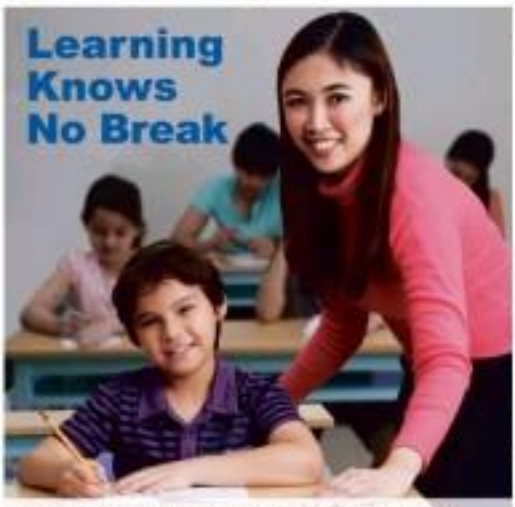
As the group converged at the school compound on Saturday, the mayor accosted them, and his personal bodyguards and about 100 policemen.

"He berated the participants, and told them not to push through with the rally," Santos said, quoting witnesses, who declined to be named for fear of reprisal.

Garma said she took pictures of the confrontation, between Bonoseros and the rally organizers when one of the mayor's bodyguards grabbed her camera. Reports said the mayor hurled the camera, shattering it.

"The mayor accused me for not having asked for permission before I took the photos. I feel so [sad] because I thought that, as a journalist, I am protecting [access to] the Filipino worker's in it," Garma said.

Provincial said he asked Garma and the prosecutors a dialogue after the confrontation, where he apologized for his action. He also promised to replace Garma's broken camera. — Melvin Bitonel, Inquirer Northern Luzon



Gadhafi son killed in Nato missile strike

From page A1

bathroom sinks and furnaces among the broken walls and demolished floors. The interior of a devastating rubble remained intact in the middle of a bedroom although the walls around it were demolished.

The bombing came hours after Gadhafi called for a ceasefire and negotiations in what rebels called a publicity stunt.

Gov't shell rebel city

When news of the deadly strike spread, rebels booked home and chanted "Allahu Akbar" or "God is great" while speeding through the western city of Misrata, which Gadhafi's forces have besieged and subjected to random shelling for two months, killing hundreds. Fireworks were set off in front of the ruined Hikma hospital, causing a brief panic that the light would draw fire from Gadhafi's forces.

On Sunday morning, Gadhafi's troops shelled Misrata's port as a Maltese aid ship, the Mar Rosaria, unloaded food and medical supplies, said Ahmed al-Misilati, a truck driver helping move the cargo.

"We were still working this morning when they started firing rockets," said al-Misilati. "Some fell in the ocean, some on the pavement, some in the warehouses, and in the water in front of the boat."

The driver said about a dozen rockets fired over 10 minutes struck those warehouses and a grand pier. The boat quickly embarked back to sea, he said.

Last week, regime loyalists attempted to mine Misrata's harbor to close the besieged city's only link to the world.

UN mandate

Nato warplanes have been carrying out air strikes in Libya for the past month as part of a UN mandate to protect Libyan civilians. Last week, British Defense Minister Liam Fox and US Defense Secretary Robert Gates had told reporters in the Pentagon that Nato pilots were not targeting Gadhafi specifically but would continue to attack his command centers.

The commander of the Nato operation, Canadian Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, said he was aware of uncorroborated reports that some Gadhafi family members may have been killed and he regretted "all loss of life, especially the innocent civilians being harmed as a result of the ongoing conflict."

Seif al-Arab Gadhafi was one of the youngest of Gadhafi's seven sons and brother of the better-known Seif al-Islam Gadhafi, who had been treated as a reformist before the uprising began in mid-February. The younger Gadhafi had spent much of his time in Germany in recent years.

Gadhafi's children had been increasingly engaged in covering up scandals. In a 2009 memo, including negative portraits from extravagant displays of wealth, such as a million-dollar private concert by pop diva Beyoncé, according to a batch of diplomatic cables released by the anti-spilling WikiLeaks website.

But Seif al-Arab remained largely in the shadows, although he had a penchant for fast cars and partying when outside Libya.

Libyan leader unharmed

Moammar Gadhafi and his wife were in Seif al-Arab's house in the regime's Bo-gheour neighborhood when it was hit by at least one bomb dropped from a Nato warplane, according to Ibrahim.

Seif al-Arab "was playing and talking with his father and mother and his sisters and nephews and other visitors when he was attacked by no silence-reminder," Ibrahim said.

The government spokesman said the airstrike was an attempt to "assassinate the leader of this country," which he said violated international law.

"The leader himself is in good health," Ibrahim said. "He was not harmed. The wife is also in good health. Five children and a grandson."

Ibrahim would not give the names of the three children killed, except to say they were

IN THIS PHOTO: Inside on a government-organized tour, a portrait of Moammar Gadhafi's son inside a damaged official building following an air strike in Tripoli.

victims and nephews of Seif al-Arab and that they were younger than 12. He said the family is not releasing the names to protect its privacy.

In addition to his eight biological children, Gadhafi also had an adopted daughter who was killed in a 1986 US airstrike on his Bab al-Aziziya residential compound—retaliation for the bombing attack on a German disco in which two US servicemen were killed.

Gadhafi blasts Nato

In a rambling pre-dawn speech lamenting Gadhafi said "the door to peace is open."

"You are the aggressors. We will negotiate with you. Come, France, Italy, UK, America, come to negotiate with us. Why are you attacking us?" he asked.

He also railed against foreign intervention, saying Libyans have the right to choose their own political system, but not under the threat of Nato bombings.

In Brussels, a Nato official said before Saturday's fatal strike that the alliance needed "to see our words but actions," and vowed the alliance would keep up the pressure until the UN Security Council mandate on Libya is fulfilled. Nato has promised to continue operations until all attacks and threats against civilians have ceased, all of Gadhafi's forces have returned to bases and full humanitarian access is granted.

Rebel leaders have said they will only lay down their arms and begin talks after Gadhafi and his sons step aside.

"The time for compromise has passed," said rebel spokesman Abdel Hafidh Ghoga in statements. "The people of Libya cannot possibly envisage or accept a future Libya in which Gadhafi's regime plays any role." AP

Merci trial aborted: Winners and losers

From page A1

as a proxy fight between the Presidential Palace in his campaign to make her accountable for a number of corruption cases spelled out in the impeachment complaint. The senior move against Enrile tried to stop her allegedly from blocking the prosecution of corruption cases against her. The move the senior Enrile pursues is to remove officials deemed to be standing in the way of his administration drive—a major objective of his administration.

The resignation followed unjustified pressure exercised by the President who embarked on a unbridled-barrel campaign to swing public opinion behind his objectives: First, to force her to resign before she stands trial in the Senate; and second, get the impeachment tribunal to commit her for "treachery" on conspiracy in resigning as President Arroyo if the impeachment trial had gone ahead.

After weeks of relentless bullying in a charge led by Mr. Agnes Devanadera, executive secretary Ochoa, Gutierrez succumbed and folded, and the President got his way without a

Moody battle in the Senate.

Why she quit

The first question after the surrender of the Ombudsman is: What made her quit? There are several interpretations.

According to the government's aide, Radio Rep. Mel Tapan Jr. head of the House impeachment prosecution panel, a number of officials in the Office of the Ombudsman were prepared to testify against Gutierrez at the Senate trial (which was scheduled to start on May 9) but now aborted by her resignation. Tapan said the prospect of this damaging testimony would have pushed Gutierrez to quit.

Another version is, persons close to Gutierrez told me, that she had been overwhelmed by the presence from the government that she feared the trial would turn into a "railroad," in which the Presidency has thrown the resources of his office to remove her and replace its staff with people deemed more cooperative with the administration's anticorruption purge of the bureaucracy.

According to a third version by former special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio, Gutierrez resigned here a strategic move to protect Arroyo. According to this theory, while it would have been Gutierrez on the stand during the Senate trial, the evidence to be presented would have inevitably led to Arroyo. Hence the abortion of the trial, as a consequence of the resignation, is believed to have benefited Arroyo, at the expense of Gutierrez, as the "fall guy."

Woes not yet over

Apart from the fact that Arroyo has been spared the ordeal of removing the full brunt of what would have been the testimony of Gutierrez, the abortion of the trial cleared the desk of the Senate to revert to its normal legislative functions, given that an impeachment proceeding would have eaten up most of its working sessions for at least the remaining days of the year.

But after her resignation, the woes of Gutierrez are far from over. With the trial rendered moot, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said those wanting to pursue cases against her should file suits with the Department of Justice using evidence they had in the House impeachment.

The resignation did not buy her immunity from suits.

LPU

LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY
MANILA · MAKATI · BATANGAS · LAGUNA · CAVITE

Program Offerings
Academic Year 2011 - 2012

TAKING THE LEAD

EDUCATION, ARTS, AND SCIENCES
AB Journalism
AB Legal Studies
AB Mass Communication
  Major in: Advertising
    Broadcast Communication
    Public Relations
AB Multimedia Arts
AB Paralegal Studies
AB Psychology
Bachelor of Elementary Education
  Major in: Pre School
Bachelor of Secondary Education
  Major in: English
    Biochemistry
    PE/HM
BS Psychology

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
BS Accountancy
BS Business Administration
BS Business Administration
  Major in: Business Management
    Human Resource Development and Management
    Management Accounting
    Marketing Management
    Operations Management
    Financial and Management Accounting
    Financial Management
BS Business and Computer Management
BS Customs Administration
BS Office Administration
Associate in Office Administration

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
BS International Hospitality Management
  Specialization in:
    Cruise Line Operations in Culinary Arts
    Cruise Line Operations in Hotel Services
    Culinary Arts and Kitchen Operations
    Hotel and Restaurant Administration
    *Health and Wellness (*New)
BS International Travel and Tourism Management
Certificate in Culinary Arts
Associate in Culinary Arts and Kitchen Operations
Associate in Hotel and Restaurant Administration
Associate in International Travel and Tourism Management
Diploma in HRM (new offering for AY 2011-2012)

COMPUTER STUDIES
BS Computer Science
BS Information Systems
BS Information Technology
Associate in Computer Technology

ENGINEERING
BS Civil Engineering
BS Computer Engineering
BS Electrical Engineering
BS Electronics Engineering
BS Industrial Engineering
BS Mechanical Engineering

MEDICAL PROFESSION
BS Nutrition and Dietetics
BS Radiologic Technology
BS Medical Laboratory Science
BS Physical Therapy
Associate in Health Science Education
Doctor of Dental Medicine (LPU Batangas)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
AB Foreign Service
  Major in: Diplomacy
    International Trade

LYCEUM INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ACADEMY
BS Marine Engineering
BS Marine Transportation
Seafarer's Rating Course*

CRIMINOLOGY
BS Criminology

LAW
Bachelor of Laws (LPU Makati)

NURSING
BS Nursing

GRADUATE STUDIES
Ph.D. in Fiscal Management
Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management
Doctor of Business Administration
Doctor of Public Administration

Master of Business Administration with Thesis/Non-Thesis
Master in Business Administration Specialization in: People Management
Master in Public Administration with Thesis/non-Thesis

Master in Public Administration Specialization in: Taxation
Master of Arts in Education
  Major in: Guidance and Counseling
    Educational Management
Master of Arts in Communication
Master of Arts in Foreign Service
Master of Arts in Economics
Master of Arts in Political Science
Master of Arts major in:
English Language Studies
Psychology
Information Technology Education
Library and Information Science
Master in International Hospitality Management
Master in International Hospitality Management

TESDA (Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program)
BS Business Administration major in Financial Management
Human Resource Development and Management
Marketing Management
BS Hotel and Restaurant Management
BS Nursing

Inter-disciplinal
Dual Track Curriculum
A Hospitality Education Partner

LPU Manila

Intramuros Manila 1002
Tel (02) 527-0251 to 56 loc. 102, 119 | Telefax (02) 527-1758
www.lpu.edu.ph

LPU Makati

109 LP Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel (02) 893-0799 | Telefax (02) 893-9399
www.lpu.edu.ph

LPU Batangas

Capitol Site, Batangas City 4200
Tel (043) 723-0706 loc. 117, 119 and (043) 723-1370
Fax (043) 723-3549
LIMA Campus (043) 723-9850/3554
www.lpu.edu.ph

LPU Laguna

Km. 54 National Highway, Malitlit, Calamba, Laguna
Tel (049) 502-3071 to 75 | Telefax (049) 502-0374
www.lpu.edu.ph

LPU Cavite

Governor's Drive, General Trias, Cavite
Tel (046) 484-8051 | Fax (046) 484-8099
www.lpu.edu.ph

LPU-St. Cabrini

College of Allied Medicine
Maharlika Highway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Tel (043) 778-0218 | Telefax (043) 778-0219 | www.lpu.edu.ph

INQUIRER

OPINION

Merciful

THE DECISION of impeached Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to resign from office by the end of this week came as a surprise, but it was not altogether unexpected. That is to say, the option of resignation had remained viable despite her spirited protestations. She was never more eloquent than when she rose to defend herself, and claimed she was ready to prove her innocence at the impeachment trial in the Senate. And yet there were early signs that her office, one of the most powerful in the entire government, could be vulnerable to pressure.

EDITORIAL

Mark Jalandoni, the deputy ombudsman perceived closest to Gutierrez, suddenly resigned, after complaints against him were filed; another deputy ombudsman, Emilio Gonzalez III, was sacked by Malacañang for his role in helping cause the hostage-taking incident last August that led to the death of eight Hong Kong tourists; unsettling news that former members of the governing coalition in the presidency of Gloria Arroyo had joined the House prosecution panel became talk of the town. Even Arroyo's midnight visit to Gutierrez's house, on the same night the House impeached her, only served to confirm the ombudsman's perceived closeness to the former president.

The chief sign of vulnerability, however, was the snowballing impeachment vote in the House of Representatives. In a moment of candor, a close Arroyo ally said they expected the vote for impeachment to go against Gutierrez, but by a much smaller margin. In other words, the Gutierrez supporters were completely routed.

Since impeachment is a quasi-political process, the overwhelming vote must have rest on a few political calculations. Coupled with President Aquino's decision to wage a high-profile campaign to generate public support for the impeachment, as the vital next step to remove the most obstacle to his anti-corruption initiatives, the impeachment vote must have made Gutierrez feel especially vulnerable to mounting political pressure.

But the "quasi" part played its part too. Contrary to the sometimes shrill insinuations raised by Arroyo's allies in the House, the impeachment process was not a mere act of vengeance, but a deliberate, well-thought-out, participative exercise in accountability. While the evidence for the six articles of impeachment varied in quality, each article was fairly and fully vetted in the House. And the impeachment vote did not stop the House leadership from working to further strengthen their cases, to the extent of inserting two negotiators with former officials of the Office of the Ombudsman. Also, the possibility that former senator Ramon Magsaysay Jr. would testify on the issue of the fertilizer fund scam, and the threat of former fugitive Sen. Panfilo Lacson to search for more incriminating evidence in his "feud," would have had a positive effect on the senator-judges, and must have been another source of concern for Gutierrez.

To offset words, the legal aspect of the impeachment was an solid case. The case may have had reason in fear, and the public had the right to suspect.

Nevertheless, despite these signs of vulnerability (some made clearer in the glare of hindsight), the news of Gutierrez's resignation still came as a surprise. Apparently, the deciding factor, at least in the last couple of days before she finally made up her mind, was the assurance she received from Malacañang that the impeachment was "not personal."

Much can be made of the nature of this assurance (it strikes us as very Filipino, this exchange that revolves around the pledge that there was no rancor, no personal hostility, involved), but nothing Gutierrez said in her post-resignation press conference, and nothing President Aquino said in his, could be construed to equate assurance with insurance.

Malacañang did not promise to restrain any interested party from filing criminal and administrative charges against Gutierrez in exchange for her resignation, and in fact the political reality is it could not have made any such promise. But Rep. Edcel Lagman, who offered the most cogent arguments in support of Gutierrez during the impeachment debates in the House, was quick to suspect a quid pro quo. Considering the antecedents, we think that is highly unlikely. But we will find out for certain, when the first cases begin to pile up against private citizen Merceditas Gutierrez.

Publisher SANDY OCAMPO
Editor in Chief/CEO MARIA ANGELA A. PROTACIO
Managing Editor JOSE NIÑO D. MIRANDA
Associate Editor ARMANDO J. DOROY
Associate Editor for Broadcasting BENJAMIN G. CARREON, JR.
Opinion Editor JOSEF F. ASTRERO
News Editor ANTONIO T. ENANORIO JR. • Chief Copy Desk Operations ANA R. ROMERO
Chief News Play Desk MARIA RA. ALANO-TAN
National Editor FREDERICK D. RAMOS JR.
Senior Desk Editor JOAN N. SANDOVAL JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DOROY
Chief Photographer ERNIE M. SUNGAHID
Art & Design Director LORETO S. VILLARIN

Board Chairman MARIA S. PROTACIO
President ALEXANDRE PROTACIO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing ROSARIO R. BARCENA
Vice President for Advertising ROSIE R. OLALIA
Vice President for Info Technology Services JOHN CH. LIMPE
Vice President for Finance JOSE CH. VILLARIN
AVP for Circulation MANUEL ANDREW S. CELDRAN IV
Corporate Affairs Manager CHARLIE R. GALAGNARA

All rights reserved. Copyright protected by law. No part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, and may not be stored in a retrieval system, without prior written permission.

Merci's resignation is void, not valid

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FIRST, I would like to say that Merceditas Gutierrez deserves praise for resigning as ombudsman, although she should have done it much earlier. She served creditably herself most of all, the pain, time and expense of a long, tedious and tedious impeachment trial. It also saved the people more than could have been wasted assisting on television a mere more than to usually unnecessary, and it denied politicians an opportunity to grandstand and for everyone to relish the juicy tidbits. Hope it not make their senators any wiser. Senator Pres Sotto (nan Pwee Tin) he would still be a congressman with Senators Lito Lapid and Bong Revilla would still be governor of the first district of the late whacko days (no one wrong to be vague or ordinary citizen). (The same is true with Supreme Court justices.)

On the other hand, I would like to add that her resignation as ombudsman is not valid, according to Senator Law professor Alan Peguia, to which I agree. That resignation, said Peguia, is void ab initio.

How can she relinquish an office she no longer holds? Her term had expired in 2016, he said.

"Her resignation, like her impeachment, is a nullity and void ab initio because she was already and impeachable has signed without jurisdiction after the automatic expiration of her in to third constitutional term," Peguia said.

"In other words, in spite of her dubious resignation, she still has an office to which term of had faith, not only to the sovereign Filipino people but also to the individual victims of her many indictments and acquittals.

"Those who were illegally dishonest would do well to more to have their cases against them dismissed. Those who were illegally acquitted should be re-investigated for possible indictment. The common ground for such motions of action would be lack of jurisdiction on the part of Gutierrez."

Why is Morelli resignation void? Why was she no longer ombudsman since 2009? Here's why:

The Constitution is very clear on the term of the ombudsman: seven years without reappointment. Simeon Marcelo was appointed ombudsman in 2002. His original term would have expired on Nov. 23, 2009. But Marcelo resigned in 2008, and Merci was appointed to replace him. Therefore, Merci could serve only the unexpired term of Marcelo, which is until 2009.

Merci claims, on the other hand, that she was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to a new seven-year term, or until 2013. However, even a presidential signature cannot change the term mandated by the Constitution, which has been ratified by the people. So Marcelo's term as ombudsman automatically expired in 2009 by operation of law. No one is above the law, not the ombudsman, not even the President. The Constitution says the ombudsman's term is seven years, but the term of the board commissioners is from 2002 to 2009—"merely seven years. Marcelo served the first half. Merci served the second half. The full term expired in 2009. Merci ceased to be ombudsman by that time.

But Merci claims she "acted in good faith" in the way all the ombudsmen acted the "weighted" a few days ago. During that time, she continued to issue orders, orders some public officials and acquit others. Those orders, indictments and acquittals are void, according to Peguia, as though they were never issued. She seems she issued them when she no longer had any jurisdiction as ombudsman, her term having already expired since 2009.

Herself then how—but she seemed to be ombudsman beginning 2009—issue a judicial declaration?

"That would be nonsensical," asserted Peguia, "but it is not necessary. The law incredibly takes its course without interference from anything or anybody. It doesn't need anybody to say that 'the sun is new' for the sun to be or be really new. Minus the date for the expiration of the term serves, the term expires automatically. The term is new, valueless or not too like it. Nobody has ever the President, not Congress, not even appointed by the Commission. Only the sovereign people can do that in appointment."

Nonsense could have appointed a new ombudsman as soon as he was sworn in as President in 2010, the justices having been vetted already, and allowed Merci to question her replacement in the Supreme Court.

The trouble is the President's legal advisers are not giving him the correct legal advice, nor the justices themselves, nor the lawyers. Because the government legal advisers, but having a lawyer himself, the President doesn't know these things.

Now I hear in the newspapers that Justice Secretary Leila de Lima is picking the President's brain on who she and the other ombudsmen should be appointed in a new seven-year term. Wrong.

The term of the new ombudsman is from 2009 to 2016. Merci illegally exercised my (even her own) position for the past six years. Her seven years will begin with the new Congress. If he follows the advice of Secretary de Lima, he, the whole Philippine government, would be the laughingstock of the world and the universe.

Maybe there is an oversight here, maybe the legal advisers forgot to study their law more meticulously and was not able to advise the President better. But here is a chance to correct the errors of blunderers committed earlier and stop the world from laughing at us.

I suggest the President consult other constitutional experts and order Secretary De Lima to study the issue further so that the wrongs committed in 2005 (when Merci was appointed to a new seven-year term) and in 2009 (when she did not relinquish the position despite the expiration of the term as mandated by the Constitution) can be set aright.

Still, be careful what you ask for

THE SENATORS are aware that Merceditas Gutierrez has resigned.

Their effusive words are variations on a theme, the resignation, more than Peter Enrile, is the "best letter" she could have edited. It "spares us a long and acrimonious impeachment process," says Francis Pangilinan who was the first to call on Gutierrez to do so. It spares us "the very tedious and divisive process" of impeachment, quite apart from saving us precious time and resources, says Ramon Revilla Jr.

I never about this before when they called on Gutierrez to resign, saying they should be careful what they asked for. I said that despite Gutierrez's display of toughness, repeatedly saying she wouldn't last her chances while would hold high, that was something she would very likely do when things got too hot. That was as not just because, like Ebdis, since unveiling compromises, she deserve her least position for saving one living and doing another, that was as the best way to "save face" and "save honor, to lay to her best." If the impeachment created a risk or repression, in the public, she was likely going to be pressured to resign.

That is what she has done.

It is not Gutierrez's decision. Certainly it is not without its strengths for government.

At the very least, it removes a stumbling block in government's campaign against corruption. The Office of the Ombudsman is an important one, indeed a vital one for a government dedicated to fighting corruption. Gutierrez's resignation despites DoJ of a presence in that office, someone who can make sentences of her pillage disappear, or continue to muddle up some like that of Cedric Lizada. It opens the door for the appointment of someone who can live up to the commands of such a job.

At the very least, it removes a stumbling block in government's campaign against corruption. The Office of the Ombudsman is an important one, indeed a vital one for a government dedicated to fighting corruption. Gutierrez's resignation despites DoJ of a presence in that office, someone who can make sentences of her pillage disappear, or continue to muddle up some like that of Cedric Lizada. It opens the door for the appointment of someone who can live up to the commands of such a job.

At the very least, it shows that PNoy's anti-corruption campaign is getting some traction. He has seen the first battle almost without firing a shot. Right in an admission of guilt, arbitrary flight and the act of fleeing to exile, shows, showing oneself in the buyer, or resigning to escape an impeachment trial. It is a

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

personal victory for Noynoy in particular who has campaigned vigorously to rid the Office of the "institutions of a deal to do the side of government. That there on the side may seem be turned into a mound in the hand.

But it has its drawbacks too, and the bigger one.

That Gutierrez has resigned should demonstrate forcefully that the virtue of her impeachment trial. That value did not lie in the conviction of Gutierrez, it lay in the indictment of GMA. Gutierrez was just the means to an end. Her trial would not just have allowed us to see and feel and blind, it would have shown what she was and blind to. That was the awe-inspiring scale of wrongdoing of the person she tried to defend and protect.

That was the point of the trial. That value did not lie in exposing it, it lay in driving it home to the people. Indeed, driving it home to the most dramatic, vivid, gut-wrenching way. That was the true value of the Trap impeachment trial, the opportunity to end all rationalize. It gave a face to wrongdoing in the most heinous that the public deserved every day for months, a drama far more gripping than the artistic has ended on the roots of "Noynoy." In the end, that value had no King's ransoming.

Why, then, did Gutierrez's resignation have been and welcome? Why should it have been welcome and divisive? Why should it have come as precious time and encounter?

The Trap impeachment trial was not long and arduous, it was short and dire. We know that from the clerk and CEU she honorable and the philanderer, the urban poor and the urban rich, who felt deprived by that trial starting to a suit.

dire done, the address subdued their ire. The Trap impeachment trial was our outlaws and disdain, it was enlightening and stirring. That trial gave the public an education in democracy, quite apart from giving the public an glimpse the true story of corruption, which is no higher than anything they had never known before.

It was divisive only in that it stemmed the upsurge from the public. Which was as it should be. The point of unity is not to unite the oppressed with the oppressors, it is to unite the oppressed to fight their oppressor.

That was what the Gutierrez trial should have done; it would have given the public an education in democracy, which is that the people rule, or ought to, and have given the public a glimpse of the face of corruption, which is GMA—but we should well beyond the theft of money. It would have given the public an outlet behind Noynoy campaign against corruption, which is as it should be.

Of course, as Bangalore says, Gutierrez's resignation has robbed the impeachment trial of its value. The campaign against corruption goes on. That may not just mean going more after GMA with renewed energy, though that is a consummation devoutly to be wished. That was the one very exited intention of Gutierrez's impeachment trial would have been. A genuine campaign against corruption, whether corruption is defined simply as pillage or more broadly as the corrupting of all the institutions of democracy, cannot proceed without the people's participation in it. The one second-guessing of the Aquino administration is that it has not given the people opportunities to participate in the campaign against corruption.

Be very careful what you ask for.

A war of religions

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

THE CONTROVERSY over the RH Bill is becoming in fact become a war of religions. Pitted against each other are, on the one hand, "good" Catholics, and, on the other, the spirits in Orkos, Dominican democracies, Marxists and "bad" Catholics. By "bad Catholics" I mean the kind of Catholics whom "good" priests supported by their "good" bishop consider unworthy to enter a Catholic church. And since I myself do not see the necessary reason to deal black against white, I must now explain why some Catholics think some of the items in a card they for the Catholic church unfaithful have.

When I heard about the priest who told those who accept the RH Bill to leave the church, two questions from the New Testament came to mind. I asked first, as to the driving of money changers out of the temple premises. Jesus fashioned a whip out of cords, and chased the "bad guys" out of the premises. So, unlike the divine one "bad Catholics," the "bad guys" in the New Testament may never use force to prey; they were there to make money. And they were not even in the inner premises of the Temple. Jesus had every right to say that his Father's house was not meant to be a marketplace.

Another incident is the story of the woman caught in adultery. She was dragged before Our Lord by "good" people. And the Master law was clear: a woman caught in adultery must be stoned. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone, Jesus said. And he bent down to scribble on the ground, to scribble perhaps the names of the accusers. Then he said the "good" guys drank away.

The moral of the story is, which I like to tell those who ask me why I continue to teach "bad guys" in the Ateneo Law School: Christ came to save sinners, even defenders of the RH Bill.

The debate on the RH Bill started in 2006, or perhaps even earlier, but it was investigated for seriously about the reality of the bill. Then the debate resumed in 2009, it was difficult for many to understand. Now, in 2011, it is even more difficult for many to understand. Now, in 2011, it is even more difficult for many to understand. Now, in 2011, it is even more

SC unrestrained by any law

MAY 2011 The Supreme Court (SC) recently refused to issue a restraining order against the filing of a second motion for reconsideration, or in the case of the 14 petitions, even where it even allowed several such motions (resulting in triple reconsideration), preventing lawyers can only shake their heads at the sheer tyranny of it. It is simply unfair and unjust that while lesser mortals have to live with the rule of one motion for reconsideration, a privileged few (the law profession) could totally disregard that rule with impunity.

Sec. 2, Rule 52, Rules of Court (see also Sec. 2, Rule 56) plainly says: "No second motion for reconsideration of a judgment or final resolution by the same party shall be entertained." By any interpretation, it is beyond clear that the filing of such second motion is prohibited, more so a third or fourth motion. But when the Supreme Court chooses to proclaim that rule anyway, it unabashedly rationalizes its decision in this wise: when we give due course to it, it is no longer prohibited!

If this does not insult the intelligence of lawyers practicing in this country, we wonder what will!

In fact, this has already now become an unnerving judicial invitation for reconsideration itself becoming routine — unless the Court decides it something enough! Not that is being silly. The argument is, it depends on who is filing that second, third or fourth motion. Retired Supreme Court justices who return to private practice have been known to easily find their way around the labyrinth of rules in a favorable resolution by that Court. Add here are Estipas, Lampas Escolin, Idealgo, etc., who once had the gall to write personal missives to individual justices concerning his cases...and, surely you see for the others in private practice.

—STEVE V. VERVEL, ESQ., steverell@yahoo.com

Cancelled mining applications not enough to save PH

BUENAVISTA, PRESIDENT Aquino cancelled more than 200 mining applications in Palawan, however, did so too enough to save Palawan from environmental destruction.

Palawan is known as the last ecological frontier of the Philippines. It has rich flora and fauna. It is home to the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a top contender to become one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature. Ironically, the province loses at least 10 large-scale mining projects each as the Tabo Didicl Mining, Great Bay Nickel Mining, Berong Nickel, Metroxim Mining and 8MM mining projects. The total mining area affected covers around 58,140 hectares of Palawan, as of July 2010. Almost all mining concession areas are considered biodiversity rich and environmentally critical.

He welcomes the President's decision to cancel the mining applications. However, this action has little effect on the Palawan environment since it does not stop the destruction and degradation already being done by the mining projects that are still operating in the island. But will the President's decision save the province from more destruction that will be caused by the future activities of mining projects that have been approved but are not yet operating.

Also, the earliest move by the President to cancel some 500 mining applications still sets the mining down not environmentally protective environment. The cancellation of these permits and applications must done not because mining operations were destroying the environment or violating the human rights of the communities but because these permits and applications were never investigated and aging or never just investigations. They were revoked so how up the proposed mining areas for now mining firms that are serious about operating and not just into speculation. This means that they must show serious new mining companies are given the go signal to operate, there destruction is limited to none.

If he can do it in Palawan, then P. boy should also lead his cars to and, more importantly, heed the calls in other provinces where the people have long been struggling against large-scale foreign mining.

At least three cities' provinces have active campaigns against mining. These are Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar. Marinduque, Romblon, Cagdi and South Cotabato where a ban banning open-pit mining approved by the provincial board is being blocked by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Large-scale foreign mining projects (including those approved but not yet functioning) all over the country should be cancelled in order to save not only Palawan but the whole country from environmental destruction and human rights violations caused by the mining operations.

—CLEOFE CATALUNA, national coordinator, Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan-PNE), 26 Kamagong St., Barangay Central, Diliman, Quezon City

LETTERS

VP not avoiding FM burial issue

THE APRIL 17 editorial ("Marcos fiasco") of the Inquirer described Vice President Jejomar C. Binay's decision to involve the public in deciding whether or not to bury former President Ferdinand Marcos at the cemetery for war heroes as "particularly Nuremberg Filipino-like."

The analogy is incorrect.

Nuremberg Filipino clearly had the intention to shun himself from accountability, to "wash his hands." The Vice President does not intend to give us no public chance so that he may absolve himself of accountability. In the end, it will be the Vice President who will make the final decision and give his recommendation to the President. But he will only do so after weighing the views of all sectors and groups, not a motley rabble. Surely, that is not "Nuremberg Filipino-like."

We also wonder why the editorial takes issue with a leadership style that is participatory and in essence fair and democratic. Is it not refreshing to have a vice president who is not afraid to be a leader but is endowed with humility and democratic. Did people have republicans such style of leadership.

The Vice President aspires to provide opportunities for the people to make republican contributions to decision-making. He sees consensus that in a democracy our government is not run should be of the people, by the people and for the people.

—PERCIVAL M. GAN, head, Media Affairs Division, Office of the Vice President

Solve Pelaez slay bid, solve levy mess

MAMING PELAEZ, as he was fondly called, could ransom in amazing detail the offense of Deputy Gajumpo in getting the cross levy secured by Secretary Marcos.

When Pelaez hired's aide pleaded, on behalf of counter farmers, that the cross levy upheld, **poor families**, in the ex, could occur, he almost got killed in an attitude near his home.

In the winter of his life, Pelaez was mentally and metaphysically certain who ordered his assassination and that man was operating under the aegis of the Office of Malacañang.

Let Maming Pelaez truly find his peace.

"The evil that men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones."

—CLAUDE BERNOUR, claude.bernoure@gmail.com

Edsa de-mythicized, repudiated

Until it a point-to-point reply to Alejandro Desmond's solitaire mind. "Massive mutual resolution cases to shroud false mistakes." (Inquirer, 4/11/11)

1. There were no false mistakes. A key player of the Edsa revolt objectively compared the number of the Edsa participants to the more or less 300,000 only thirty were in Edsa for food and entertainments. Many of them were attended passengers and kibitzers. The Edsa people were not the millions of Filipino people.

2. Democracy was not restored by Edsa. Edsa gave birth to a revolutionary government that summarily removed duly elected officials, the President Ferdinand Marcos, there was hostage democracy.

3. The Supreme Court finally ruled: Its Marcos dictatorship, or "it was revolutionary government."

4. There was no policy of human rights violations. President Marcos' proclamations, general orders, presidential decrees and arrests of insurrection decreed elimination of due process and respect for human rights.

If the implementors of martial law erred, that was their personal responsibility. If Juan Ponce Enrile and Fidel Ramos committed atrocities, why not blame them?

President Marcos saved the life of Ninoy Aquino twice. First, he stopped his execution by treasury, second, he stopped his death by hunger strike. And then, he stopped his death by heart attack. President Marcos saw his love America for medical treatment.

Those opposing the hero's burial at Heroes' Cemetery in Libingan ng Mga Bayani are the ones who have an axe to grind.

Their pronouncements are unsubstantiated. They captioned part of the minority by their rallying cry: Fight Marcos the dictator, plunderer and human rights violator.

The time has come. The people have regained democracy. The Edsa crises was in the last elections. The representatives of the people and the Armed Forces of the Philippines have declared Marcos a hero.

To those their dictator, and anti-Marcos forces have to satisfy personal will. Heroes are not a hero. However, the people through their representatives have spoken. Perception is not reality.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said: "Let us not quarrel as to who was the real hero of Edsa, Marcos or was a hero he was hunting as in Edsa."

A President Marcos was not a plunderer. President Corazon Aquino ordered the filing of a criminal case for plunder in the United States against President Marcos and Imelda Marcos. The case was dismissed by the last court.

President Marcos left a handwritten legacy: "My wealth is for the benefit of the Filipino people."

—ELPIDIO A. GOLANO, 8 Everlasting St., Bonao Diosdos, Quezon City

Ping should've stayed, faced charges

I LIKE Ping Lacson because he originates the pack hunted. But sincerely, I also like Joggler, the mind in Why did he flee the country and go overlooking if there is no blood on his hands? Facing his battle in his motherland with the friends of a Trojan warrior would have been a commendable act of a man who knows what is right and what is wrong. Philippines Rommel Nilton, isn't it?

Senators and senators are not immune power penetrates a person can lose, and a party litigant in this country who has one or both can use one or the other, or both, to get a lawyer who is not extraordinary the best his type who knows how to play and feel around with the so-called unwritten code of procedure that have contaminated our legal system. If only rules or made things which are beyond what a legal eye be able to get what his or her client wants. That is if the jurist ignored to sign, and the other party litigant is not as equally rich and powerful at least as his adversary), became notorious, the poor lawyer will read up with nothing.

Lawyers are paid by their clients not necessarily to fight for what is right, but oftentimes, to fight for what is wrong. Even the filmmakers know this.

Furthermore, judges and jurists are not fool-proof in their characters and some of them can easily yield to outside pressures and temptations, especially if the temptation is about money. A judge or justice who is not already rich may not be able to resist a bag with P50 million in it if it is clandestine in his face in exchange for a favorable decision. I am not saying that this is the scenario in Lacson's case, but anyone can always think of the scenario possibility is endless.

But if I were the judge or the justice I would probably take the money and run like a bandit.

—MANUEL ROXAS, manny@roxas.com.ph

Irrelevant subjects

THE BOSES in the Inquirer March 30 editorial titled "Failing grade" (of college education) The editorial only highlighted the fact that everyone is clueless about the problem. Some 19 years of **amateur** from the Philippine Statistical Regulation Commission clearly show that the precipitous decline from 80 percent passing grade to 30 percent only started when the colleges overloaded the students with subjects **irrelevant** to their courses.

In "Harvard at Large" or "Ingenium Infinity," no name was made subjects, subjects not in Engineering or Nursing? Doesn't make sense to overload a course with over 100 units per semester when there are just 144-unit courses in the "less colleges abroad? The sum of the premium is greater. The investments cost for every student is P50,000. A 200,000 graduates/year, the colleges gain a minimal of P10 billion early year.

If not for greed, how else would 2,140 colleges suddenly sprout like mushrooms every one, every month? (We have 24 colleges for every million Filipinos as compared to only 7 colleges per million Americans, inside the bulk of any expert, of course, to determine the real problem.) The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) **cannot** solve this problem because the CHED itself is the problem.

—ELPIDIO V. ES., eduardo.sana@yahoo.com

Aeta folk join 'Walk for John Paul'

From page A9

power for them and handed each family member a rosary.

On Nov. 4, 2004, it was the turn of their son, RJ Mangio, and his wife, Anna Lou, to meet John Paul II shortly after their July wedding that same year.

The couple wanted a child and had asked the Pope's blessing. A few months after the visit, Anna Lou was pregnant with her son, whom they have named Gian Paolo, the Italian name of John Paul II.

Simon and Marion now boxes of Philippine mangoes to the Pope's kitchen, which the Pontiff acknowledged with a note of thanks.

Regalovisit

On the website of the Japan Media Women and Animation Studio, Joel Arthur Tibalio posted photographs of John Paul II's Baguio visit in 1981.

One photograph shows the Pontiff on a white Nissan jeepney that was converted into a "papa mobile," another shows him being greeted by G-string clad Cordilleran who were beating gongs.

Vestment in Malolos

In the City of Malolos, the vestment which John Paul II gave to former Malolos Bishop Cirilo Almario during his 1981 visit will be displayed at the city's basilica minore on Monday.

Fr. Joe Uriz, head of the diocese's communication ministry, said the Bulacan clergy's souvenirs of the papal visit, including books, would be featured in the exhibit. Greg Baccasan, Rosette Orpiza and Germaic Ajayo, Baguio Inquirer General Luzon, and Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DOCTORS and NURSES for CANADA

Sunday, May 8, 2011,
9:00 am / 11:00 am / 1:30 pm / 3:30 pm
Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Makati City
Call / text Jen 0917 8080 056 / 811 1950 / 811 1217

Canadian Professional Immigration Services, Inc.

www.canadianprofessional.com

ACCOUNTANCY • ARCHITECTURE • ARTS • BROADCAST COMMUNICATION • BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION • COMPUTER SCIENCE • DENTISTRY • EDUCATION • ELEMENTARY • ENGINEERING • ENTREPRENEURSHIP • GRADUATE STUDIES • HIGH SCHOOL • HRM • INTERIOR DESIGN • INTERNATIONAL STUDIES • I.T. • JOURNALISM • LAW • MANAGEMENT • MARKETING • MEDICINE • NURSING • NUTRITION • PAINTING • PHYSICAL THERAPY • POLITICAL SCIENCE • SCIENCES • TOURISM MANAGEMENT

The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST provides quality education that turns its various students into topnotch achievers. Be it in Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Accountancy, Engineering, Education, Law, Library Science, Fine Arts and other professions, UE has what it takes to make you globally competitive.

UE Home of TOPNOTCHERS!
UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST
The GLOBAL CHOICE!

The UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST provides quality education that makes you globally competitive!

UE also has an array of foreign students from over 26 countries—including China, South Korea, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Africa, Great Britain, Canada and the USA—who seek world-class education.

Indeed, UE is the Global Choice for Education!

UE MANILA Tel. no. 735-8577
UE CALOOCAN Tel. no. 367-4787
UERMMMCI Tel. no. 713-3315

UE is Now AUTONOMOUS! • www.ue.edu.ph • Tomorrow Begins in the East

He helped topple communism, eschewed pomp

MEXICO CITY—Late Pope John Paul II, put on the path to sainthood on Saturday, was an inspirational figure who helped bring down Communism but alienated many Catholics with his conservative views.

The first non-Italian pope in more than 400 years, and the first from Eastern Europe, Polish-born Karol Wojtyla knew instinctively how to use flowing the pomp that surrounded his predecessors and seeking contact with ordinary people.

During a pontificate lasting nearly 27 years, he undertook travels over which he personally logged more miles than all his predecessors and averaged contact with ordinary people.

He left one of his most momentous acts for the twilight of his papacy—an attempt to purify the soul of the Roman Catholic Church with a sweeping apology for sins and crimes committed during its 2,000 years of existence.

John Paul II was born in a small town near Krakow, in southern Poland, on May 18, 1920. (Seventeen days after he was 6 and his father raised him, teaching him Germanic and football.

John Paul was never a member of the Polish resistance, but the experience of war caused him to reconsider the priesthood.

He became a parish priest and rose steadily through the Church hierarchy eventually rising to cardinal.

Soviet glacier thawed

When he was elected pope in October 1978, John Paul was 58, a robust sportsman and a relative outsider amid the vast bureaucracy of the Holy See.

His first foreign visit was to his native Poland.

Despite Soviet warnings, Communist authorities were unable to head off the Pope's 1979 visit, when he appeared before million-strong crowds speaking powerfully for human rights.

The upshot was a huge, reinvigorated anti-Communist working class movement, the birth of Solidarity and the slowly thaw of the Soviet glacier that lay over Central and Eastern Europe.

For all the Pope's immense popularity, his moral teachings—notably on family values, extramarital sex, homosexuality, birth control, euthanasia and abortion—alienated many Catholics.

Saved by Mary

Reformers, the young and Third World congregations in the grip of a devastating AIDS epidemic were increasingly disappointed at his refusal to give ground on the issue of contraception.

Dogged by the scandal of pedophile priests, the Pope, at the behest of US bishops, approved new procedures for clergymen committing sexual abuses.

In 2981, he nearly died in an assassination attempt when a right-wing Turkish extremist, Mehmet Ali Agca, shot him at close range in St. Peter's Square. One bullet went through his abdomen and another narrowly missed his heart.

Though the motives behind this assassination bid were never clear, conspiracy theories included a Bulgarian secret service hit ordered by the KGB and an attempt by radical Islamists to polish off the most prominent Christian leader.

The Pope said the Virgin Mary had saved his life and had one of the bullets inserted into the diamond-studded crown of the Virgin of Fatima in Portugal.

Synagogue and mosque

He met virtually every significant head of state and government.

The United States, the Soviet Union and then Russia, the countries of the former Soviet bloc, Mexico, Israel, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization established diplomatic ties with the Vatican during his pontificate.

John Paul was the first pope to step in a synagogue, in Rome. The first to enter a mosque in an Islamic country, in Damascus, Syria, and the first to preside a meeting of the heads of all the major world religions in 1986.

Despite his global stature, numerous health problems in the 1990s, including an operation for a benign intestinal tumor, a fractured shoulder, a broken thigh bone and Parkinson's disease, which left him increasingly debilitated.

He died at the age of 84 on April 2, 2005. AFP

Rosales leads Pinoy pilgrims at beatification ceremony

By Josephine C. Darang
Columnist

ROME—The answer to why they came to Rome for the beatification of Pope John Paul II on Sunday was summed up by Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Mercedes Tuason.

"Pope John Paul loved the Filipinos and they in turn loved him as shown by the attendance of five million people at the Luneta for the World Youth Day on Jan. 12, 1995," Tuason said.

Cardinals Cardinal Rosales led the Philippine hierarchy at the beatification ceremony attended by an estimated 1.5 million pilgrims from around the world.

Tuason said she had five encounters with John Paul and each time she was overwhelmed by his holiness and his kindness.

When she fell from a ladder in her Makati home in June 2005, Tuason said she received a prayer for John Paul and Padre Pio—and it helped. She said she did not suffer any broken bone.

Gentlest soul

Retiree Sen. Francisco Tatad called the late Pope the "gentlest soul" he ever met.

"He could not all the love he has for you in his eyes. He inspired people to have the family and young people. He inspired me very much," Tatad said.

In his declining years, John Paul would suddenly feel a surge of energy when addressing young people. "They affection," aside called him "Lolo" (his nickname to Polish.)

Sharing the same affection for John Paul was Nancy Fornolo of the World Food Program of the United Nations in Rome.

"Pope John Paul II is different from all the other Popes. He had a different charisma...but the look on his face showed he was very holy" Fornolo said.

Springtime of Faith

Cebu Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, who was ordained bishop by John Paul II in 1984 described the new "Blessed" as an extraordinary pope who changed history for creating a "new springtime of faith."

"When he was dying, the Pope became a martyr of human personhood. He made greater indeed than in the 27 years of his papacy," Arguelles said.

Also present at the beatification were Bishop Emeritus Antonio Tobias and Manolo de los Santos.

Former ambassadors to the Holy See Howard Dee, Raul Rabe and Francisco Alba also shared their filial affection.

Thanking John Paul

Many Filipino priests were inspired by the holiness of Pope John Paul to become more committed to the priesthood. Among them was Fr. Emmanuel Cabuteas who was inspired by the Pope's 1981 visit to go back to the Archdiocese of Palo, Leyte, which he had left years earlier.

Cabuteas's coming to Rome was his way of thanking the late Pontiff.

Fifth Collector were Fellows Tony Boiser of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Barrio, Cavite; Basil Bass of the Cathedral Parish Andy Mustang of the St. Joseph Parish in Carmona, Cavite. They unite with 38 other pilgrims.

Another priest inspired by John Paul was Fr. Stephen Simangan, who was ordained by the Pope in 1997 in Seville, Spain. During the Pope's visit to Manila, where John Paul hugged him, Stephen said, "I was electrified."

Most loved Pope

Alvin B. Caliado, a doctor of civil law from University of the Visitas, called John Paul the "people's Pope and the most loved Pope in the history of the Catholic Church."

Former Senator Gov. Sally Ann Lee said that even when he was still living, "Pope John Paul was already a saint."

Sr. Fernanda Flano, a history teacher, said that Sunday's Mass were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary with their trip to the beatification.

Jane and Ned Villarino of San Juanel in Cebu started their two sons after John Paul. They are Ned John Joseph and Ned John Emmanuel.

The 80th anniversary celebration of Rome's College Filipino fell on Saturday—the day of the beatification. Blessed John XXIII founded the residence of priests on Oct. 7, 1961.

At 5 p.m., Cardinal Rosales officiated Mass with Cardinal Vidal and other bishops.

'A feast of Catholic faith'

From page A1

The Vatican's official daily described the grand ceremony—and the weekend of prayers that Benedict called "a feast of faith"—as "extraordinary events without precedent in the last 2,000 years of the Church's history."

"From now on, Pope John Paul shall be called 'Blessed,'" Pope Benedict, wearing resplendent white and gold robes, solemnly proclaimed in Latin, establishing that his predecessor's feast day would be Oct. 22, the day of the inauguration of John Paul's history-making pontificate in 1978.

He remained a rock

"He remained to the last unity in true love as a religious of hope," Benedict said of his beloved.

Benedict also said that through John Paul's faith, courage and strength—"the strength of a man, a strength which came to him from God"—John Paul had turned back the seemingly "irresistible" tide of history.

The pope proclaimed for Christianity that impulse of hope which had in some sense fallowed before Marxism and the ideology of progress," Benedict said.

On a personal note, the pope said he himself had been inspired by his predecessor, particularly for his forbearance during the "difficult days" of his papacy.

"His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me," he said. "Then, too, there was his witness in suffering. The Lord gradually prepared him for everything, set his remained free."

The beatification is a steady boost for a church scarred by the sex abuse crisis. Yet it has also triggered a new wave of anger from victims because the scandal occurred under John Paul's 27-year watch.

Others have been critical of the speeding-up of a procedure that usually takes decades if not centuries.

A second miracle attributed to John Paul's intercession is needed for him to be canonized.

Police joined with swaths of Rome—even several kilometers from the Vatican—off limits to private cars to ensure security for the estimated 1.6 heads of state, seven prime ministers and five members of European royal houses who came.

Spain's Crown Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia, wearing a black lace mantilla, mingled with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, relatively bizarre Islamitary leaders and former President Lech Walesa and Ehrlich-arean President Robert Mugabe, who schmigged a European Union travel ban to attend.

"He went all over the world," said Bishop Juan José Aguirre Munoz, Mali, who came to Rome for the ceremony. "Today we're coming to him."

During his papacy, John Paul traveled to 129 countries, logging more than a million kilometers.

'Santo Subito!'

Benedict put John Paul on the fast-track for possible canonized when he dispensed with the traditional five-year waiting period and allowed the beatification process to begin weeks after his April 2, 2005, death. The decree was respectfully to chants of "Santo Subito!" or "Sainthood Immediately!" which erupted during John Paul's funeral.

On Sunday, a group of pilgrims from Krakow offered a banner to a friars outside the square that says "Santo Subito," evidence that for many of the faithful, John Paul already is a saint.

Around the world, Catholics celebrated the beatification, jamming churches from Monaco in Australia to pray and watch broadcasts of the Rome Mass on television.

In John Paul's native Poland, tens of thousands of people gathered in vigils in a major sanctuary in Krakow and in Wadowice, where the late Pontiff was born in 1920 as Karol Wojtyla.

Speaking in Latin, Benedict pronounced John Paul "Blessed" shortly after the start of the Mass...held under bright blue skies, and amid a sea of Poland's red and white flags—a scene reminiscent of John Paul's 2006 funeral, when some three million people paid homage to the pope.

'Fragrance of his sanctity'

Benedict revealed that the six years ago, saying the saint (the world felt their way empowered by immense gratitude for his life and pontificate.

"Even then, we perceived the fragrance of his sanctity," Benedict said, explaining the "extraordinary" haste with which John Paul was being beatified.

Police, government officials and the Vatican all put the figure of those attending the Mass at over a million, making it the largest crowd ever assembled in one St. Peter's Square and the surrounding streets but others smashed it on some of the 14 huge TV screens set up around town or listened to it on radios in Polish or Italian.

Vial of blood

During the Mass, Benedict received a silver reliquary holding a vial of blood taken from John Paul during his final hospitalization.

The relic, a key feature of beatification ceremonies, will be available for the faithful to venerate.

It was presented to him by Sister Tobiana, the Polish nun who tended to John Paul throughout his pontificate, and Sister Blanc Simone Paron of France, whose inexplicable recovery from Parkinson's disease was decreed to be the miracle necessary for John Paul to be beatified.

Subsequently flow overflowed, police locals patrolled the nearby Tiber River and some 5,000 uniformed troops patrolled police barricades to ensure peace, official delegations and those with coveted VIP passes could get to their places.

Another Paul's beatification beat out the beatification of Mother Teresa by a few days.

Various officials have insisted that John Paul deserves beatification despite the fallout from the sex abuse scandal, saying the saint-making process isn't a judgment of how he addressed the Church but rather whether he lived a life of Christian virtue.

But victims' groups, such as the US Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests, have said the speedy beatification process was "robbing many adults of those seconds" of victims. Reports from AP Reuters and AFP

Filipino devotees pray for healing miracles at relics

From page A1

on table, which was used by the pope when he hosted Mass at the Papal Nuncio residence during his four-month official visit to the Philippines in 1995.

The altar is very special to Philippine Catholic Church because it was also the same one used by Pope Paul VI, the first pope to set foot on Philippine soil, when he visited Manila in 1970.

The archdiocese of Manila made the altar table available to the public for veneration following the last set and Mass at the grounds of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, which was held to join the entire Church in celebrating the last beatification of a pope in history.

The archdiocese also displayed during the Mass a crown enlaced chasuble, an outer liturgical garment worn by John Paul during his 1981 visit.

Quiapo church

At the Quiapo church in Manila, crowds were thick as a piece of cloth from one of his habits was displayed by the altar to mark the day of his beatification.

The church ended up in the care of the Quiapo church following a trip to the Vatican filings Jose Clemente Quiazon made in 2006.

The piece of the habit was given to Iglesia, rector of the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, by Bishop Giovanni Peludo, of the Papal Secretary of State. The relic itself was part of the right sleeve of one of the pope's last cassocks.

Quiapo church has been trying to distribute small pieces of the cloth to other churches, including Manila Cathedral, the Cathedral of Antipolo, and the San Juan Bautista Cathedral in Tarlac.

The pieces in possession have been set in frame in the middle of a heart beside a photograph of the pope. The picture has been used to help healing in some of Manila's hospitals, according to Iglesia.

"He was a pope who had very strong charisma and he understood the problems of the world and where the Church was needed," Iglesia said.

Feeding program

In Bacolod City, a feeding program for poor children was held at the Pope John Paul II Tower.

Fr. Felix Bonpin, rector of the San Sebastian Cathedral, said it was significant that the beatification fell on Labor Day. He said the pope had championed the cause of the poor and the workers when he spoke before thousands of people in Bacolod when he came for a visit in 1981.

Bro. Daniel Alimudin led the ceremonial Eucharistic of Regina Cleretes, as Bacolodnon at the feeding children to the children gathered at the center.

In his homily at the 1981, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo encouraged the faithful to pray for the intercession of the late pontiff.

"The meaning of his beatification is that we can also pray to the prayers for our own needs, especially in living Christ's life," Pabillo said in the homilies of his fan participants who stayed to hear the Mass.

He also emphasized that the beatification of the beloved pope was a reminder to all to be faithful to their country was not forgotten and servants. "It reminds us that sanctity is not of the past, but also the present... that we can follow his example how to be a saint and to live a holy life."

Following the Mass, people formed a border under the sweltering heat to leave their brief moments with the altar and say their special prayers and intentions.

Parents brought their little children, many of whom were not even born when the pope died in April 2005, to touch and pray before the altar.

But many were teenagers, feeling the altar with their two hands and silent eyes closed in prayer and taking a remembrance photo of the sanctuary.

"We asked the pope to pray for our mama because she has a tumor in her ovary," said Bonifacio, who came with his entire family to join the friendly race initiated by the Manila Archdiocese to raise funds for Filipino dioceses in the 26th World Youth Day in Madrid in 1995.

The pope initiated World Youth Day in 1985.

Healing

Accounts of miraculous healings have been attributed to the late pontiff. A nun in Italy claimed to have finally confided to him. But before he can be proclaimed a saint, a second miracle must be attributed to him.

The altar, which has a marble surface and wooden base, was banned for more than two decades at the Quiapo church before it was returned.

But the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin had it transferred to the National Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe in Makati City in 1996 when the residence of the Papal Nuncio underwent renovation.

Guadalupe shrine

The whole day yesterday, as thousands flocked to St. Peter's Basilica to witness John Paul's beatification, the altar was made available for public veneration at the shrine in Guadalupe at a secondary rite.

"But we still open it again to the public as the next following days if there is a demand for it," said Fr. Eric Cassis, the shrine's vicar forane, in an interview with reporters on the sidelines of the fun run.

The fun run drew less than 5,000 participants, not as many as what the Manila Archdiocese was expecting, to raise money to send 13 delegates to World Youth Day in Madrid.

But Ramon Jude Lizasoain, head of the Archdiocese of Manila's Commission on Youth, said the turnout was still surprising since less than a thousand had initially signed up for the event.

"We didn't expect this because when we checked last Monday, the registration was very lower than 1,000 ... But I was hopeful because this is dedicated to Pope John Paul, I know he will do something," Lizasoain told reporters.

Intercession

"What he showed us this morning proved that he was here and he interceded for us," he added.

Michelle Manzotha and Catherine Calagtan were among those who joined the fun run to celebrate the pope's beatification.

Manzotha, who came from Davao to watch a concert the night before, went straight to the PICC grounds in the early hours of Sunday for the fun run with Calagtan, who has been joining marathons in the past.

"We went to join in the celebration of the pope's beatification," Manzotha said. Calagtan, who emerged among the winners in the friendly race and took home a cash prize, said she wanted to help send Filipino delegates to Spain. With a report from Carla Pilaman, Inquirer Visayas

Militants stage rallies nationwide

From page A1

ing contractualization. He did not address our appeal for the reduction of oil prices," Pateños Monggupgapas (PM) national chair Renato Magtubo said at Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, formerly Macapagal Avenue.

PM has been fighting along with the Philippine Airlines Employees' Association (Paleu) in overturning the termination of some 3,000 contractual employees.

PM members and allies led a march on and attended Mass at the Chino Roces Bridge from morning until noon.

WORKERS march on Chino Roces Bridge in Manila to press for a P125-wage increase during a Labor Day protest. ALEXIS ROMERO

Effigy, 'Porsche' burned

In the afternoon, Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) led a program at the Liwasang Bonifacio, where an effigy of Mr. Aquino in his Noynoy was torched. They later marched to Chino Roces Bridge to dismember their appeal.

Red, blue and yellow flags bearing the names of the groups were waved, and cries of "Ulog manggagawa, buklurog mapag-pahiya (The working class is the army of liberation)" rang in the air.

Many groups such as the Alliance of Progressive Labor, United Courier Workers Alliance, Isabuhay, National Confederation of Labor and Sandugong Bonifacio ng Kabataan (Sanbok) joined the rally in front of Mother Carden's near Manila City Hall.

It car covered in paper to look like a stolen Porsche, an effigy of a Dalmatian with Mr. Aquino's face, and a man wearing a costume made of Lucio Tan's face, were burned. Ties to the owners of INC.

Rallies spread in streets surrounding the bridge as they joined in the Mass celebrated Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, a longtime friend of the Church-Labor Conference.

Papal encyclical

A sign on the backdrop of the makeshift stage and altar read, in Filipino, a quotation from Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Laborem Exercens."

"People are more important than things. Labor is more important than capital," a recent message of the labor group Church condition, Pabillo said.

He considered Mr. Aquino's statements yesterday inadequate. "The real good news would have been him taking a clear stand for or against contractualization," he said.

The Aquino administration should provide equitable access allocation instead of focusing on increasing income or production, he said.

Festive

The KMU-led "People's Day of Outrage" at Liwasang Bonifacio was more festive, with a rainbow area pitched near the stage. Speeches by civil society leaders on a stage alternated with songs, one in rap.

The theme of the Liwasang were largely composed of affected parties, groups, such as Erwan Mesa, Gabriela, Bahaman and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees.

Most expressed dismay over Mr. Aquino, noting their major demands were a legislated wage increase and cuts in fuel prices. They accused deputies of prioritizing capitalists and businessmen.

"We need to have change. We have general strike," said Gabriela Rep. Filipinos were disenchanted," said KMU chair Elmer Labog.

He said his group's basic demand was to raise wages through legislation and not through regional tripartite wage boards.

"We need to review the Honor bills calling for a P125 wage hike across the board for the private sector and the P6,000 per month increase for government employees," he said.

The groups marched on Mendiola, dusk at around 5:30 p.m.

Job fair in Rizal Park

While activists took to the streets of Manila, thousands trooped to Rizal Park in the city to look for employment opportunities.

Rizal Park was the sole venue in Metro Manila for the labor department's Labor Day Job and Livelihood Fair. Similar fairs were held simultaneously in every region of the country.

In Pampanga, workers of Central Luzon marched in the globe City to protest low wages amid rising prices of fuel, food and basic services.

The Monggupgapeng para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Mak-ibaka) and the Partido San Isidro ng Bayan (Pasi) 3 mounted separate rallies in the globe City's Plaza Miranda. Makabayan organized gathering Malawakang and Mac 3, 600.

Dioscoro Dado, Pasi 3 chair, said emcees hosted at the Dublin Bar Freeport were joined by religious and urban poor leaders in Olongapo City for a rally at the free port's main gate.

Lalista workers

He said workers at the Lalista Industrial Park in Pasirisis Lusita, a cigar-related owned by the family of Mr. Aquino's mother, in Tarlac, held a protest rally at a park and later at the public market in Tarlac City.

Makabayan also organized rallies in Iloilo, Zamboanga, and Mindanao, Bataan.

In Zamboanga, workers of Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines Inc., who called their group Samahan, read a petition addressed to Congressman Rosenda Ong which said "labor is their priority over capital."

In Baguio, some 150 union members and activists marched through the downtown to the city's leg of the "National Day of Outrage" organized by the BIBE line nonviolent.

In Cagayan City in Albay, more than a thousand workers and activists marched along major streets. The KMU, Bayan Muna and Gabriela held brief rallies at the Barangay Rizal sports field, the regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment, the Pinaglabanan Monument and the Rotunda Park.

The Visayas

Protesters also staged rallies in the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod and Silliman, as well as in Kalibo town in Aklan, to demand higher wages.

In Iloilo City, around 3,000 protesters led by the KMU and Bayan marched to the Jaro District plaza and in front of the University of the Philippines before marching to the capitol.

Hundreds joined similar rallies in the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan and in Roxas City in Capiz.

Three rallies were held in Bacolod to demand an increase in wages. About 1,000 members of KMU and Bayan staged a rally at the Bacolod Public Plaza to demand an across-the-board increase of P125.

At the Fountain of Justice on Araneta Avenue, some 1,500 members of Lusugan Ka and the Democratic Association of Labor Organization-Kagpa converged for a protest action. They demanded that the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board in Western Visayas approves the petition for a P99-salary increase in the minimum wage.

At least 200 members of PM-Negros held their own rally at the Bacolod Arts and Youth Center.

Cebu job fair

Jobs fair and rallies marked Labor Day in Cebu.

Hundreds of people went to Old City Cebu, Cebu City Sports Center and The Cebu Television Cultural Convention Center to city Hall fair at finding jobs offered by several companies.

But at least 3,000 members belonging to 13 labor organizations converged downtown and walked on the office of the labor department in Central Visayas where they held a rally.

The group belonged to an umbrella organization Kamanggagawa ug mga Nagkahiusang Manununo sa Bugho.

The workers demanded an end to contractualization and complete security of tenure and decent living wages.

In Cagayan de Oro City, participants joined in the call for better work conditions.

In a statement, the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) said: "Very few media workers in the country are regular employees ... (and) yet they perform the work of regular reporters but lack job security and benefits, including life and medical insurance, and allowances."

The NUJP claimed that the race to transform news organizations into multiplatform operations was resulting in more work for workers without any corresponding payment. Work reports *from* Jaime Flores, Dagupan Central Luzon, and Vincent Cabreza, Dagupan Northern Luzon; Mar Arguelles, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Carla P. Gloria, Aurora Republican and Walter P. Balcueva, Inquirer Visayas; and Ryan D. Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Noy sees wage hikes

From page A1

"But the new administration is not like that and good news is not just all talk and we assured is numbers that are being transpired but not being carried out."

Mr. Aquino urged wage boards to fast-track deliberations, noting that "nanoon ko-severe labor unrest" appeared related to strike as wage petitions awaited action." He said that acting on the petitions now would allow "workers to focus on their jobs and all of to can breathe a sigh of relief."

The President later said in remarks he requested the wage board in the National Capital Region to come out with a wage order by next week. The board earlier said a wage increase can be sought because of "especially event" brought by high oil prices.

"So we will be pressing both—regional wage boards) to finalize everything. We cannot promise that within the month everybody will be finished but we will be pressing them to finish within the month."

Raises for gov't workers

The government's 1.4-million workers, on the other hand, are expected not only to get more pay but also a bonus at the end of the year—one month ahead of schedule—but will also get their midyear bonus before May 15, the President said.

Mr. Aquino also announced in his address that a P4,310-billion tax subsidy for small-scale farmers and fisherfolk and that the government would continue to provide employment to the people, including working students.

On top of the "Pantawid Pasada" or fuel subsidy for jeepney and bicycle drivers which will begin this month, Mr. Aquino said the government would soon provide a P2-billion loan repayment subsidy that will see farmers being provided with seeds, fertilizers and even pesticides.

The President stressed the measures and other benefits announced yesterday were things that can be done as he noted that there were issues in help workers and the people in general to cope with the impact of high oil and food prices to the country.

Partial package

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad said before the President announced was just a "partial" package that the government will immediately give to workers. He stressed that Mr. Aquino was not the type to just make promises.

"There is also one thing that we are looking forward to the chief transfer of our salary standardization law which will be passed in June. You heard it right. It's in June and not July that government workers will receive an increase in their pay," the President said.

He said the early release of the third tranche of the salary hikes would provide great relief, especially with the start of the new school year.

"Why should we give someone what we can give today?" he said.

Salary standardization

Mr. Aquino said funding for the third tranche of the salary standardization law would come from savings of personal services.

Apparently addressing critics that his administration has not fulfilled a promise to create jobs, the Aquino said that the Department of Health's Regional Hotor Haul program had been able to deploy 18,000 nurses in overseas provinces.

More than one million people also had been given jobs in government-led beautification projects of the community-based employment program, he said.

Over 130,000 students will be given jobs this year through the special program for employment of students during the summer break, he said, as well as pay for their tuition fees in schools, Mr. Aquino said.

The President proposed meeting with labor leaders at least every quarter of the year. "It's not good that we only give them a chance to see him in May 1 and then see them again the same time next year," he said.

More pressing problems

Senator Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said Mr. Aquino's Labor Day should not be focused solely on wage increases but also include other measures aimed at improving the quality of life.

Labor groups have pushed for P125 per day wage hike to address the impact of the rising fuel and oil prices all every Labor Day but Malacañang has remained cool to proposal as it preferred that adjustments be made through regional wage boards.

Belmonte pointed out that wage hike was just one issue faced by the labor sector which also has to contend with labor "contractualization," poor enforcement of minimum wage laws, and the spread of child labor.

He said another major issue was the impact of the rising conflict in the Middle East, which comes for a big chunk of the country's overseas foreign workers, which could force Filipinos to return home and lead to a drop in remittances.

"We encourage him to look for new models to address our economic development," Belmonte said.

With Mc Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Francis Tolentino announced yesterday that 10 top-performing senior high school graduates would receive a pay hike as a Labor Day gift. *With reports from* Jhl C. Gabacontapay Jr. and Penelope Endoso

Kate's royal task: Beget an heir in 9 months

From page A1

"If Kate is not pregnant in the next nine months, she will be delaying 300 years of royal tradition," said Andrew Morton, a biographer of Williams's late mother Diana who has just written a new book about the newlyweds.

After years of waiting for her prince charming, the 28-year-old will be expected to move quickly to produce an heir for the second in line to the throne. Commoner there is no break in the line of succession.

Her predecessors certainly wasted no time—Williams was born barely 11 months after his mother Diana married his father Prince Charles in 1981.

And Charles himself, the heir to the throne, was born almost exactly a year after his parents Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip married in 1947.

'One step at a time'

Asked about his plans for children in an interview in November to mark his engagement, William said: "I think our future is one step at a time. We haven't got over the marriage first and then maybe look at the kids.

"But obviously we would like to as well have children (Smiling about that." Having postponed their honeymoon, William and Kate will spend a weekend away at an undisclosed location in Britain before beginning their married life on the Isle of Anglesey in north Wales, where the prince is a helicopter search and rescue pilot.

He must serve another two years with the Royal Air Force (RAF) there, ensuring the newlyweds can start married life in relative seclusion.

Light shed

Reports suggest Kate's public engagements will initially be light—a charity gala in London is expected to be one of only a few events before a tour to Canada from June 30 to July 8, the couple's first as husband and wife.

"The most important bit of the job is to remember in that he's not heir to the throne," Paddy Harverson, Prince Charles' communications secretary, told the BBC.

"He's second in line, and he's not a full-time royal, he's a full-time pilot working a normal job for the RAF search and rescue," he said.

Ever since he started his job in September, William has struck a balance between public engagements and his work—he has not neglected the former but he has worked just as many shifts as his even-year colleagues.

Some experience

Kate may find life as a novice wife difficult, as William works 24-hour shifts and missions that can be dangerous.

But she already has some experience, having spent much of the last few months living with him in a cottage in Anglesey.

After graduating with a degree in history of art from St Andrews university in Scotland, where she met her husband, Kate worked as an accessories buyer for a fashion chain and then for her parents' party supplies company.

But her career has been viewed in the media as rather undemanding, and she is expected to embrace the charity work that comes with royal life. Prince William and Kate said to have given her some time to work out exactly what she wants.

Making a difference

"I really hope I can make a difference, even in the smallest way," Kate said in November.

However, royal historian Hugo Vickers was also what her priority was now.

"If I'm being brutal about it, Catherine's duty is to make her husband happy and to produce an heir," he said earlier this month.

William's marriage "makes it possible to have another generation of The House of Windsor in direct line to the throne—a boy who will automatically become king or a girl who might become queen."

Under the law of succession, the first son Kate has would be next in line to the throne after the prince, who is second in line after his father Charles.

But if they have a girl, her place would be behind any brother she may have. The government has indicated it would be open to amending the law, to ensure all of Kate's children have a chance at the throne.

AFP

ENSAYO
GYM EQUIPMENT
#320 G. Araneta Ave., Brgy. Dona Imelda Q.C.
#100 E-Rodriguez Jr. Blvd. New Manila Q.C.
Tel #: 992-6868 / 715-9920 / 713-6700
www.ensayofitness.com / ensayofitness@yahoo.com
CARDIO EQUIPMENT
ATHLETIC TRAINING GEARS
STRENGTH TRAINING EQUIPMENT
SUPPLEMENTS

Late SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiboa

TALK 'N TEXT'S Kelly Williams smothers Ginebra import Nate Brundidge's drive in last night's match in Puerto Princesa

Texters on fire anew, rip Kings in Palawan

By Mussing R. Cardila

PUERTO PRINCESA—Talk 'N Text used five massive scoring runs in a stretch that bridged the final two periods and crushed the rogue Ginebra, 104-88, last night to take a 2-1 lead in their PBA Commissioner's Cup title playoffs.

The Tropang Texters easily wiped out a 53-61 deficit using nine unanswered points to zoom to a 69-61 lead that the Gin Kings never got to overhaul despite massive fan support at the jampacked Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

Quicker in every position and bigger and more athletic inside, the Texters (their fourth the game units spun early in the fourth by holding the Kings scoreless for the first 2:33 until it put a lapup for the first 5-1/8 for an 86-76 lead.

And after Mark Caguioa snapped a three-minute scoreless spell for Ginebra, Larry Fonacier, Ronald de Guzman and Jimmy Alapag hit triples that boosted the Texters to a 99-84 lead heading into the final 2:46.

"It was a very tough battle out there," Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes said on the way to the dugout. "That game was all about mea and we defended a lot better and that was the key.

"After the Game Three, we made sure that we would play a lot better defense tonight."

Alapag finds range

Game 1 of the best-of-seven series is set Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, and the odds-against is harsh in favor of the Texters, with Alapag seemingly finding his range after being blanks in the series' first two games.

The Gin Kings also didn't have an answer to Jo Ocampo all night as the versatile power forward knocked in five triples to finish with 21 points.

Caguioa led the Kings with 18 markers and Mike Hrusovsky had another harrowing experience smacking the leaden with the Talk 'N Text defense clamping down hard on him every time he made a move to go inside.

The hotly Ginebra import was held to just 16 rents as a total of six Talk 'N Text players scored in twin digits.

Texters import Paul Harris added 15 like James Castro, Harvey Carey (det. 13, Alapag finished with 11 and Mr Pink chipped in 10.

TNT rules at the half

For the first time in the series, Talk 'N Text had the lead after two quarters, thanks to two Jo Ocampo rents, Alapag's two free throws and a Reyes fullcourt jumper for 37-49.

Those Jo Ocampo triples actually stopped a cold spell for the Texters, who held a 19-29 lead early in the second quarter only to fall into two-deadlocks, the last at 47 all after a short Caguioa jumper with 3:51 left before halftime.

Ginebra would score just one more basket after that, though, after Jimmy Alapag, another Talk 'N Text defense holic.

Talk 'N Text took a lot better care of the basketball as far as the first half went, committing just nine blunders compared to the 16 that the Gin Kings had.

In a 108-106 Game 2 victory Friday, Ginebra had a total of just 13 miscues.

The scores:

TALK 'N TEXT (104)—Ocampo 21, Asoro 6, Castro 14, Carey 13, Alapag 11, Pena 12, Ildefonso 6, Reyes 6, Williams 5, Harris 15, Rodriguez 0, Cruz 0.

GINEBRA (88)—Caguioa 18, Hrusovsky 16, Lanete 11, Wilson 10, S. Lassiter 8, Mercado 7, Fajardo 6, Tubid 5, Tolentino 2, Ayaay 0, Ilagan 0, Ebona 0.

Quarters: 19-29, 51-49, 76-74, 104-88.

Life at the Top
Stratford RESIDENCES
at Picar Place
TALLEST
RESIDENTIAL TOWER IN THE PHILIPPINES
PICAR DEVELOPMENT INC.
519-6411
BEST DESIGNS of 2009

Murakami, Tabuena join tie for 5th

BATU GAJAH, Perak, Malaysia—Ateyomo Murakami napped a sizzling weekend with a 6-under-par 66 and joined Miguel Tabuena in a five-way tie for fifth in the Clearwater Classic (Fri.) here Sunday.

With his 66 in the third round, Murakami finished at 209 like the 36-year-old Tabuena and three Thais—10 shots behind American Jerry Swezey, who completed a wire-to-wire victory in the $75,000 Asian Development Tour event.

The rookie Tabuena registered his first top-10 finish since his pro debut last February with a closing 71 after earlier rounds of 69-70-69.

Murakami and Tabuena earned $2,000 (Ca-mailbiller Thats Panupbol Pitaksuwat, Thanadon Hiranggita and Anhaphon Pumbroomsuay.

Swezey posted a 66 for a 203 total to win $13,125 in his first international roundside in seven starts over Chinese Taipei's Chang Tse-peng (204). Asian Tour News

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Wenday
Main line: 924-0000 local 3307 | Website: www.inquirer.net/metro | E-mail: a_plus@inquirer.com.ph
Text or fax feedback: Inquirer mail remarks by message or call

DID YOU KNOW

The month of May is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in the Philippines. Cervical cancer is the second leading cancer that affects women in the country with an estimated 7,237 new cases and around 3,800 deaths every year. **Zahabi Gloukhi, Inquirer Research**

Shop with your ATM card
Pay using your **Metrobank ATM card**. Simply look for counters that accept Bancnet, Expressnet, or Megalink payments at your favorite stores.
Metrobank
www.metrobank.com.ph

Man takes own son hostage in Navotas

By Nika Calleja

A KNIFE-WIELDING man caused quite a scene in a neighborhood in Navotas City on Saturday night when he briefly held his 11-month-old son hostage.

Allan Salazar, 32, was desperate to get his family back after his marriage turned sour, prompting him to take such a drastic move, Senior Supt. Bernard Tambaoan, the city's police chief, told the Inquirer yesterday.

The hostage-taking happened at the corner of M. Naval and Lazaro Streets in front of a car shop in Barangay NBBS, Navotas City at around 8 p.m. on Saturday.

It ended 30 minutes later with no one getting hurt, Tambaoan said.

According to the initial police investigation, Elvira—the hostage taker's wife—immediately sought the help of the police after Salazar, who she recently separated from, took their son away from her at her parents' house in Tondo, Manila.

PO3 Sylvia Alvero, officer in charge of the Navotas' Women and Children's desk, said Salazar told his wife that he would kill the baby and then himself if she would not go back to him.

"Do you want this to be bloody?" Alvero quoted him as telling Elvira.

The police followed Salazar and later found him inside a car in Barangay NBBS, pointing a kitchen knife at the baby.

Appeals from outsiders

"The police and the barangay watchmen asked [him] to give them the child unharmed and reminded him [that] it was his son whom he was putting in danger," Alvero said.

Salazar, however, refused as he told the authorities that since "his wife was fearing them anyway," their lives no longer mattered.

When he put down the baby and the knife to start the car's engine, a policeman identified as PO2 Genaroso Gagabica grabbed the opportunity to get inside the vehicle and roll him.

Other policemen grabbed the baby from the father who, according to police, was not under the influence of liquor but was merely feeling despondent over the loss of his family.

Police said the baby was turned over to his mother unscathed.

Salazar, however, was taken into police custody and is now detained at the Navotas police station pending the filing of charges against him today, Tambaoan said.

Parañaque fire displaces 40 families

By Miko Morales

A fire that gutted 20 houses in a compound in Parañaque City on Saturday night displacing some 40 families in Barangay San Dionisio.

Investigators were recorded in the nearby two-hour blaze that started at 10:40 p.m. at 1340 Lawmansa Compound on Quirino Avenue, according to arson investigator SPO3 Teodorico Garibaldon.

Some 30 minutes after the fire broke out, Mayor Manila fire marshal Chief Supt. Antonio Lagura called every available fire truck in the metropolis to help battle the fire in the area.

The blaze was put out at 12:45 a.m. yesterday morning, Garibaldon said.

According to him, the fire spread quickly throughout the compound because most of the houses in the area were made of light materials.

Garibaldon added that the cause of the blaze was still being investigated by arson probers.

Underneath the sheets is a world-class mattress revealed. Uratex Premium Mattress. What's more revealing is the revolutionary sleeping technology that relieves pressure, relaxes, and helps you get a better sleep. There's a model and style for almost every taste, from basic to most intricate. Indulge in the most exciting range of designs that is resplendently elegant.
For inquiries, visit www.uratex.com.ph or call My Uratex Consumer Hotline 888-8588.
Where Good Nights and Good Mornings Happen.
Uratex
Premium
MATTRESS
Comfort for life.

STUBBORN JEEPNEY DRIVERS

Jr., 18, of Manila, writes: "Jeepney drivers playing the Hunger Games in metro are so stubborn. They stop and wait for passengers at the corner of Blumentritt and Rizal Avenue. Even when the arrival of the train, they refuse to move, preventing some vehicles from crossing the railroad tracks. The policemen assigned at the nearby Manila Police District Sub-station 3 have taken no action against these jeepney drivers. Maybe they're so on the take which is why they seem to be blind to what's happening. A traffic enforcer needs to be assigned to the area."

Binay wants seismographs in city's high-rise buildings

By Tina G. Santos

THE MAKATI City government has ordered owners of high-rise buildings in the area to install seismographs, a device which can measure ground movement during an earthquake.

Also called accelerometers, the device is said to be capable of monitoring the building's response during a typhoon.

In a memorandum, City Engineer Nelson Montano who is also the city's building official, urged all developers, contractors, owners and administrators of high-rise buildings in Makati to comply with the directive.

The order likewise covers high-rise buildings under construction and those still in the design stage.

According to Morales, buildings without the device will not be issued occupancy permits by the city government.

Mayor Jejomar Erwin Binay Jr. said the installation of seismographs was an urgent and important measure included in the policies and guidelines contained in a memorandum circular recently issued by Public Works and Highways Secretary Rogelio Singson on building officials and local engineers.

Binay was referring to DPWH Memorandum Circular No. 03 dated March 31 this year. It cites Section 103.12 of the National Structural Code of the Philippines which requires the installation of accelerometers or seismographs in structures measuring over 50 meters high. Of course, many buildings are supposedly 50 meters high and considered high-rise structures.

"We believe this directive must be strictly implemented right away because no one can tell when a strong earthquake will rattle Metro Manila. We cannot know how strong it will be so we must prepare now," Binay said.

At present, there are over 300 high-rise buildings and around 30 more under construction in the country's financial center.

Citizen's call 4467

Advice for street sweepers

Sinisi kapag nagwalis ng driveway, alisin agad yung basura kapag nakuha at huwag lang ibaling nasaan. Binabag nagpapunit sa may Fairview (Commonwealth). Yung walang street sweeper, pinapawalis pa sa basura ng drainage. Pakiresolbar lang po ito Fairview Commonwealth, sayang sweet kasapan's money the garbage into the drainage. Please check on this. They should immediately remove the garbage they clean out of the drainage and not leave it on the sidewalk.

Estrella Rosal, 46, Lupiz, Quezon City

FX terminal, vendors blamed for heavy traffic

May ilegal na FX terminal dito sa Zobel St. Nasa tapat ng Benavidez Hospital sa may North Olympus. Legal yung hinalt, pati pa rin siguro dapat vendors walang pakialam. Dahil nung may nakita po sila at binalaan? Wala is an illegal FX terminal and vendors. Please do something about it.

Jose Lim, 29, Quezon City

Wanted: Help from DILG

For the first time in 20 years, a war has been declared against gambling syndicate. Bright kanda-cockfighting by our courageous new barangay captain Dad. Now it is on help coming from DILG Law Enforcement. The people here in Bagong Silangan pray for the success of our new kuya kapitana.

John Arok, 44, Quezon City

Officials asked to go after smoke belchers

I've been noticing that among jeeps, buses, trucks, container vans and tricycle drivers, a huge number of them are smoke belchers. Unlike ordinary mapers, smoke belchers cause tremendous health hazard to commuters and excessively and also contribute to global warming.

Jay Lim, 29, Quezon City

IN QUEZON CITY

Shops warned against shortchanging buyers

By Nancy C. Carvajal

GOOD news for Quezon City shoppers who feel shortchanged every time they make a purchase and receive a sandwich instead of their exchange change.

In a proposed ordinance filed by Councilor Julienne Alyson Ruiz Medalla, all owners of businesses in the city who fail to give their customers their correct change will be penalized and their permits to operate revoked.

"All business establishments in Quezon City will be required to give the exact amounts of change to their customers," a provision in the measure states.

Medalla said she had observed that the cashiers in some shops do not always give their patrons their exact change, especially if it involves coins.

Right to exact change

"It takes for granted, it will deprive consumers of their right to receive [the] exact change [from the total amount of] the product or services that they purchased," she added.

Based on the proposed ordinance, all business establishments in the city should put up a sign visible to all consumers which states: "Please demand your exact change."

Medalla said that should the owners of the shop fail to post the sign, they would be fined P1,000 for the first offense.

Penalties

Those found to have violated the ordinance a second time will be fined P3,000 in addition to the suspension or revocation of their business operation.

Under the proposed ordinance, habitual commission of the same offense may lead to the nonrenewal of the establishment's business permit.

424 MMDA men to get pay increase

By Penelope P. Endozo

PROMOTIONS of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) with the lowest pay grade will be getting a little extra this month as their paychecks roaring this month.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino announced in a radio interview yesterday that 424 job order personnel would benefit from the wage hike.

"They were chosen because they have the lowest salary grades. It's not much but it will help," said Tolentino.

Job order personnel are workers with general assignments who work on a per payper basis for the agency.

Meanwhile, Executive Director Cyrille Domingo said that the workers would receive an additional P500 per month on top of the P231 to P251 daily pay they receive.

The funds, she added, would be taken from the agency's savings with the clearance of one of its "Garapals," an ire for violators.

METRO
NEW
Citizen's Call
Mercy Citizen's Call hotline now number that's easier to remember! Text/Dial 4467
Use hotline to report illegal activities, complain about poor service, or share your views.
Text/Dial 4467 to report:
• Overspeed on the road by a driver illegally using a "siren, siren" system?
• Garbage dumped on your street unmade your day?
• Street clogging forever on the street where you live?
• Are you up to arms against the demolition of an unwanted house?
• Need by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact to your community?
• Got stuck in gridlock?
• Fed up with crowing and howling neighbors?
• Is there an everyday rule-muted in your neighborhood?
• Delightful/detestable thoke on your way to work?
JUST TEXT MMS: CC <space> [address] <space> [message] or WWW: [illegible]
to 4467
P.S. [illegible]
INQUIRER

METROBRIEFS

Man beaten to death

A MAN who had stopped out of his house for some fresh air was beaten to death in Quezon City shortly after midnight yesterday, according to a police report. Date officer PO2 Ronald Belgica of the Quezon City Police District identified the victim as Wilfredo Fenecio, 32, a resident of Barangay Unang Sigaw in Quezon City. Belgica said the victim was already dead when he was found at around 12:15 a.m. yesterday under the Kamuning footbridge. The victim sustained bruises on his nape and left cheek, he added. Belgica said the victim was found by a passerby driver who saw him lying face down on the street. The police officer added that the victim's son, Ogie, said that he last saw his father alive at around 12 p.m. on Saturday when he arrived home work. After eating dinner, the victim stepped out of their house for some fresh air, Ogie added. The police said they had yet to establish the motive in the killing. Kenny C. Cariaga

Free viewing of Pacquiao fight

RESIDENTS of Marikina City will be treated soon to a free live viewing of the much awaited fight between Filipino boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and American boxer Shane Mosley on May 7. The boxing clubhouse "Ultimo Hombre de Marikina Lolas" will be screened live on a giant screen measuring five by 10 feet at 6 a.m. on Sunday (wee hours) mark at the Freedom Park in Barangay Sto. Elena and at the Parang Playground in Barangay Parang. Mayor Del de Guzman said the free screening was expected to draw a crowd of 5,000 spectators in both venues. Since last year, the city government has been providing residents with free live coverage of all of Pacquiao's fights. "This is a continuing project for the Marikeños as we give our all-out support for the country's pound-for-pounder," De Guzman said in a statement. The Pacquiao-Mosley bout will be held at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. Alex Calleja

19-year-old girl from London missing

KENDRA Shelcel Lagapa-Magbanua left London on April 6 and was supposed to arrive in the Philippines on Cathay Pacific flight that same day. The 19-year-old Kendra has not contacted her relatives since then. Magbanua is 5' 5", with fair complexion and has a small scar on the left eyebrow. Any person with information on her whereabouts can call or text the following numbers: (0) 9062373, 0917-8573334, 0918-5108241 and (044) 7903331.

MAGLUNOG

NO-MAN'S LAND

Staffers of the Quezon City Engineering Department put a temporary marker on one of the points of the West Valley Fault line in the Payatas area identified by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. The city government plans to create a more permanent marker to warn people against putting up structures in the area to prevent casualties during an earthquake.

MMDA to inspect all 2,000 Edsa billboards

By Penelope P. Endozo

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will conduct an inspection of all 2,000 billboards posted on the 23 kilometer-long stretch of Edsa starting next week following complaints moving with outdoor advertising groups and local government units.

MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino also said that the agency would address the danger posed by two billboards which were damaged in a fire which broke out in Laperal Compound, Makati City, more than a week ago.

"The Laperal compound billboards will be put down next week," Tolentino said in a phone interview yesterday.

There are about 90 billboards per kilometer on Edsa, according to the MMDA chair. The bulk of advertising structures can be found in Makati City.

The rest are in Mandaluyong, Pasay and Quezon City which is why he sought the cooperation of Mayors Benhur Abalos Jr., Jesse Robredo and Herbert Bautista.

Tolentino said the agency's engineering team would be backed up by members of the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers. He added that the inspection would take months, considering the number of billboards to be inspected.

According to the MMDA chair, the most common violations included breaches on structural safety and noncompliance with the rules setting the distance of the billboards from the sidewalk as required by the national building code.

The metro agency project has the support of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers and Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines, Inc., Tolentino said.

WATCH IT LIVE via SATELLITE
Got a chance to win an autographed Team Pacquiao boxing gloves!
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
PACQUIAO MOSLEY
MAY 8, 2011 (Sunday) • 9AM
P888 Cainta • Manila • Metro East
P800 Forum
P400 Imus • Sta. Rosa • Cubao • Eastwood
P400 Lipa • Alabang • Fairview • Greenhills
P300 Iloilo
SM TICKETWORLD

Volunteers tend to tornado victims in US South

PRATT CITY, Alabama—Tornado victims in splintered Southern towns say volunteers are running, they're well-fed and warm at night, whether by refilling blood pressure medicine or just offering neighborhoods to a grocery-filled pickup truck. At least a few, though, say they need more from the government. Help getting into their homes and cleaning up endless debris.

Across the twisted ravaged South, students and church groups aggressively tended to those who needed it most, clearing away wreckage and handing out food and water. Wednesday's 62 tornadoes marked the second deadliest day of twisters in US history, leaving 342 people dead across seven states—including 250 in Alabama. Thousands were hurt, and hundreds of homes and businesses have vanished into rubble.

Federal Emergency Management Agency workers provided information to people in shelters about how to apply for help. Maryland Guard soldiers stood watch, marched for survivors and helped sift through debris. Churches transformed into hearty community hubs.

In Tuscaloosa, a Red Cross shelter was distributing clothes and providing counseling for folks like Carol Peck, 55, and her 77-year-old mother. She said the shelter's Five Aid station even refilled her blood pressure pills without her having to ask.

She can't explain how it happened, but the campsite her clinic contacted the shelter.

"Evidently, because I care, I don't yell," she said. "They know I was here. I don't leave here, but they found me."

In Ringgold, Georgia, Poplar Springs Baptist Church had become an informal help center. Crews were dispatched from the church, some with chain saws to drag through the debris, others with food and water and food, inside the gymnasium, a barbecue buffet was feeding those without power.

The University of Alabama's athletic department was pitching in around hard-hit Tuscaloosa, with football and athletic training students giving Gatorade, bottled water and power bars to residents.

"Anything they have in give athletes, they're giving away," said Jenny Sanders, one of the volunteers.

And most were grateful to get whatever they could.

As some tried to dress the rubble and sort through belongings, others took on the task of burying the dozens who died. Several funerals were being held in Evansville in northeastern Alabama, including services for 78-year-old Hubert Whisenon, his 70-year-old wife, Jeanita, and her mother, Lethel Estill, 88.

"They were just normal, hardworking country folk," family friend Kevin Black said outside the Batesville Funeral Home. "If they were you, they'd be gonna call you by your name and (ask), 'How're you doing?' That's how it is around here."

But planning funerals was a struggle for many as they dealt with destroyed homes. There were also 35 deaths in Mississippi, 39 in Tennessee, 33 in Georgia, five in Virginia, two in Louisiana and one in Kentucky.

"A few of the families I met with, they've lost everything," said Jason Wyatt, manager of Providence Memorial Chapel. "It's hard for me to hold my composure. They don't have clothing or anything."

Clarence Phelps's wife was among those who died when the tornadoes hit Tuscaloosa. The 36-year-old stood amidst the debris in his front yard, searching for anything of value. He found a bible and a few photos and little bicycles he put on a flatbed trailer hooked to his truck.

"Right now I'm just trying to straighten out my family and get back on track," he said.

Many residents still couldn't even get into the areas of Cordova, Alabama, where rubble-strewn streets and collapsed homes were off-limits to all but emergency personnel. The school, one of the few buildings to survive the twister, was burning on Saturday. Students stuffed bedsheets full of clothes and other valuables while their parents sorted toppled across the hall.

Landmarks in the town's northwest of Birmingham had been obliterated.

"I knew it was bad, but pictures don't begin to do justice," said 19-year-old college student Rachel Mitchell as she drove through town. "This is really hard. This is where I grew up and now nothing is here that I remember."

Still, Fourth-grader stopped for some. Eugene Stubbs, 82, stocked with a tow truck driver on Saturday to salvage a blown out car from what was left of his garage in Pratt City, a blue-collar suburb of Birmingham. He said he was grateful to have survived the storm—"I give God credit"—but he needed more help recovering belongings from his home.

"I'm trying to do what I can myself," he said. "I hope the government shows us, but I'm not holding my breath." AP

AFP/AFP: view of tornado damage as residents in Tuscaloosa continue cleaning up on April 30. Hundreds of people were killed across the South when a swarm of tornadoes hit on Wednesday.

Japan PM defends gov't handling of nuke crisis

TOKYO—Japan's embattled prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, defended his government's handling of the nation's nuclear crisis on Saturday a day after an admiral resigned during a rowdy news conference in which he charged that the government was not adequately protecting the population from radiation.

In one of his most damaging charges, the admiral, Toshio Tanaka, drew attention to a recent government decision to allow children living near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to receive doses of radiation equal to the international standard for nuclear power plant workers. That level is far higher than international standards set for the public. "I cannot allow this as a soldier," said Tanaka, an expert on radiation safety in the Defense Ministry.

He also blasted the government for what he said was a lack of transparency in releasing radiation levels around the Fukushima Daiichi plant, and for setting an overly high limit on radiation exposure for workers there who are still struggling to keep the plant under control.

Government advisory positions are considered prestigious, and it is highly unusual for an academic to quit one in protest. The prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, is an architect after the March 11 earthquake and tsunami crippled the plant, causing the world's biggest nuclear disaster since the Chernobyl accident in 1986.

KUNI

His abrupt resignation has fed growing criticism of the handling of the crisis by Kan's government, which many Japanese suspect of underreporting the true meaning of the danger. The plight might pose real threats of radioactive material released so far.

Kan's remarks before Parliament on Saturday were an indication of how much pressure the government is under as it tries to dispel those notions and to reassure what to do not only about the most contaminated land around the plant, but also about areas outside the evacuation zone that are reporting relatively high levels of radioactivity.

Any decision about the levels of permissible exposure would force expensive and chaotic evacuations—labeling the already staggering estimates of how much money it will take to rebuild from the natural disaster, a figure that has reached as $300 billion. But it could also help determine how much land in this densely populated country is ruled uninhabitable.

The calculus is complicated by the fears of farmers and fishermen in the region, who worry that continued talk of high radiation will destroy consumers' faith in their goods, and their livelihoods. New York Times News Service

Syrian military seizes symbolic mosque

BEIRUT, Lebanon—Backed by tanks, helicopters and snipers, the Syrian military seized a landmark mosque that had become a center of protests in the besieged southern town of Dara'a on Saturday, killing at least six people in an extension of a weeklong crackdown, residents and activists said.

The military's capture of the Omari Mosque was another sign of its determination to crush dissent in a town that has become a symbol of the six-week uprising against the government of President Bashar Assad, who labeled all power from his father in 2000.

After deploying reinforcements of hundreds of soldiers and 20 armored personnel carriers to Dara'a at dawn, the mosque was shelled, then taken by soldiers, who closed it to worshippers, activists and residents said. Snipers took up positions on top of the mosque, and helicopters dropped paratroopers on its grounds, witnesses said.

At least six people were killed at the mosque and elsewhere, they said, among them was the son of the mosque's preacher, who was shot when security forces stormed his house looking for his father. There was a report that the preacher, Sheik Ahmed Siasna, was arrested later, though that could not be confirmed. He was among a delegation that had met with Assad in an effort to diffuse the crisis.

The military effectively had stage to Dara'a on Monday morning, the town with tanks and soldiers, and rattling machine-gun and phone lines. Since then, Dara'a has become a rallying cry for protesters across Syria. Though the government has insisted that the unrest there is the work of Salafists, its preferred term for militant Islamists.

"It is a matter of a few hours only, and everything will be liberated in Dara'a," a progovernment politician said from Damascus. "It is impossible for the Syrian regime to let some people commence a Salafi emirate in Dara'a. This is not Afghanistan."

Hours after the mosque fell through the day, Abdullah Abazid, a resident, said, Amid reports of shortages of food, medicine and baby formula, residents remained inside their homes, fearful that they might be killed by snipers if they went outside, he said.

"The security forces are burning us down," he said. "We are unarmed and protecting our town with our bare chests, and they are shooting at us."

The military reinforcements in Dara'a came a day after the United States announced sanctions against three top officials in Assad's government, including his brother Maher Assad, who is leading the military operations in Dara'a. The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva also delivered a condemnation Friday condemning the violence and authorizing an investigation. New York Times News Service

Terror arrests in Germany disrupt wider inquiry

BAD LIPPSPRINGE, Germany—Over six months, dozens of German police officers and federal investigators had been hallowing and electronically eavesdropping on three young men suspected of planning a bomb attack in the Frankfurt area, building a case that they could do the most damage to Americans and other citizens of Qaida. Then, on Thursday they were suddenly presented with a painful choice.

The movement came after they overheard a conversation in which the most unsettled about the bombing in Morocco on Thursday that killed 16 people. The suspects had begun building a bomb; one of them complained about the smell as they mixed chemicals in a kitchen. They also moved about where they might kill the most people, the official said. A crowded bus stop, perhaps?

At that point, the investigators reluctantly decided that the danger of an attack outweighed the risk that arresting the men would alert other members of Qaida to the investigation. Shortly after sunset on Friday they seized two suspects in Düsseldorf, catching one as he walked to his car and another in his apartment, where the suspect literally barricaded a trash barrier surrendering. A third man was arrested in Bochum, where he offered no resistance, German officials said on Saturday.

"It was completely clear to me we had to act," said Jörg Ziercke, president of the Federal Criminal Police Office.

Ziercke and other officials laid out details of the investigation on Saturday, in a news conference near the federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, where the three men were brought before a judge. The officials described the operation involving an international surveillance effort by more than 100 people said including assistance from US intelligence sources and the Moroccan authorities.

The German officials said they believed that the aborted attack was part of a strategy that al Qaeda had been following to encourage homegrown terrorist attacks, now that the group had lost much of its ability to direct attacks from abroad.

Ziercke described the plot as a kind of hybrid terrorism that had elements of central control but left would-be attackers largely to their own devices.

One of the suspects, a citizen of Morocco who had lived for a decade in Germany, was convicted in absentia of Qaeda membership last year near the Afghan-Pakistani border, officials said. The suspect, identified only as Abdeladim El K., 29, received weapons and explosives training and orders from a high-ranking al Qaida official, whom the authorities did not identify, to carry out an attack in Germany. New York Times News Service

Scandal taints Buffett's status as US hero

OMAHA, Nebraska—It's a term sometimes seen itself reflected in one individual—Midas to Ghandi or Pelosi in Winston Churchill—but at least for tens of thousands of investors, that individual is Warren Buffett, the "Oracle of Omaha."

The effort to "get up in the morning, suck hard and hope for the best," according to Chuck Deane, who has lived in Omaha since the 1950s and invested in many companies on Buffett's selections before buying stock.

It is a time when profit-gazing Wall Street executives are still reviled for plunging the global economy into crisis, but Buffett's supporters see him as carrying the torch for responsible capitalism.

Despite being a multibillionaire he takes home a salary of just $100,000 a year, has had the same house since the 1950's and prefers Cherry Coke over a chateau-made claret.

"He's got an irreverence of the spirit of America," said Lawrence Cunningham, a shareholder.

Cunningham, who has also compiled a book of Buffett's writings, likens him to a modern day Will Rogers—the newsboy and entertainer of the 1920s, who became an famous for to self-deprecating modesty and folksy wisdom.

For decades Buffett has been doling out pitch business advice at Berkshire's general meetings, and has year was no different.

Amid questions from shareholders who had turned their backs after him, Buffett offered advice on everything from buying gold (maybe not the greatest idea) to how to raise kids if you are rich (it's your fault not theirs).

But at this year's Buffett-fest,

BUFFETT

it was something the Oracle had not foreseen that drew the focus of the hall.

The morning came just weeks after one of Buffett's top lieutenants, David Sokol, resigned amid a share trading scandal, a case drunk in the firm's ethical armor.

Sokol bought $10 million worth of shares in chemicals firm Lubrizol before recommending Buffett snap up the company.

Just what Buffett knew about the deal, and when he knew it, has drawn the interest of market watchdogs and the press.

But most shareholders appeared much more concerned about what it meant for the Berkshire project and Buffett's judgment.

According to Cunningham, "a single, loud people to this session, that there is no hero on the planet—even this guy, even this wonderful company, led by this fade-wearing fella—but errors or senior levels." Activating to some, with Buffett appearing his 81st birthday, it also raised questions about who lands next, and whether Buffett's desire will be the right one. AFP

Obama pokes fun at Trump

WASHINGTON—US President Barack Obama told jokes at the expense of US real estate mogul Donald Trump on Saturday night, mocking his possible presidential ambitions in remarks at the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

While Trump in the hotel ballroom audience of celebrities, politicians and journalists, Obama zeroed in on talk fueled by Trump that the president was not US-born.

Obama on Wednesday released a longer version of his birth certificate to answer some Republicans including Trump who claims he was not native born and therefore ineligible to be president, and blasted "carnival barkers" who refuse to let the issue die.

Trump seized on the issue, seeing the unrest for a possible 2012 run for the Republican presidential nomination.

Obama, a Democrat, is seeking re-election next year.

"Donald Trump is here tonight. And I know that he's taken some flak lately. But no one is happier, no one is prouder to put the birth certificate matter to rest than 'The Donald,'" Obama said, using Trump's nickname.

"And that's because he can finally get back to focusing on the issues that matter. Like, did we take the moon landing?

"What really happened in Roswell? I hear we are Biggie and Tupac?" Obama added, drawing laughs and applause. Roswell refers to an incident in the vicinity of Roswell, New Mexico, where, according to some theories, an object that crashed in 1947 was an extraterrestrial spacecraft carrying alien occupants. Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur were rap musicians whose deaths are the subject of continuing conspiracy theories.

The WORLD

Lita Lorente B. Sulco

Taliban mount Afghan spring offensive

KABUL, Afghanistan—The Taliban announced first the insurgent group's spring fighting season would begin officially across Afghanistan on Sunday, and Nato warned the public to expect small-arms fire and possible insurgent efforts to launch a major attack.

The UN special representative, Staffan de Mistura, meanwhile, said both sides should redouble their efforts to avoid killing civilians as the fighting is expected to ratchet up with the arrival of good weather.

"If there is a spring offensive, who should not be paying the price is civilians," he said. "Since the Taliban have been responsible for the biggest civilian casualties, we are addressing them first, but we are also addressing Nato and asking them to do the same."

According to the United Nations, insurgents were responsible for 75 percent of civilian casualties in 2010 and Nato forces were responsible for 16 percent. (In the remaining cases, the culprit was unclear.)

The Taliban opposed aware of the concerns from members raised, and in their news release they twice mentioned civilian protection. They said they would make every effort to avoid attacks that hurt civilians, but also warned that "all Afghan people should bear in mind to keep away from gatherings, convoys, and centers of the enemy."

The Taliban define the enemy as Nato troops as well as foreign and Afghan contractors who assist Nato and the Afghan government, and the news release explicitly said that civilian members of the High Peace Council, created by the government to reach out to the insurgents, would be targets.

The release said the council's members were "trying to pave the way for the prolongation of the American occupation by rushing to see the name of jihad, religion and tribal chieftain chip."

Nato officials see the Taliban promises to protect civilians as little more than propaganda.

Lt. Col. John L. Gordian, a Nato public affairs officer, said the Taliban had talked a lot about protecting citizens, "but we haven't seen much regard. We noted that assassinations of tribal elders and other local politicians appeared to the Taliban had continued despite their promises to ignore noncombatants.

Ljubljub Mashal, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, said the Taliban announcement was just one more attempt to threaten people's confidence in the government, following a series of bold actions in recent weeks, including a jailbreak that freed nearly 500 of its members. New York Times News Service

MUBARAK

Mubarak could face death penalty, says minister

CAIRO—Egypt's ousted President Hosni Mubarak would face the death penalty if convicted of ordering the shooting of protesters during the uprisings that brought him down, the country's new justice minister said on Saturday.

Mohammed el-Guindi told the daily Al-Ahram on Saturday that Mubarak, his two sons and wife are also facing allegations of corruption, which he said the former president had made the third "directive" of his government.

Mubarak, 82, stepped down on Feb. 11 after 30 days of mounting protests. He was later placed under arrest after being hospitalized in the resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh for heart problems. At least 846 protesters were killed during the uprising.

"Certainly, if convicted for the crime of killing protesters, it would result in the death sentence," said el-Guindi.

He added that the key to the case was whether former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly, also under investigation, would testify that Mubarak had given the order to open fire on the protesters.

"The only one capable of pardoning Mubarak... would be the new president," said el-Guindi. "If I were the president, I will not pardon him for killing 800 martyrs."

Egypt will hold new presidential elections in November.

The minister also blamed Mubarak for engendering a culture of corruption in the government and he said the former president's wealth came from gas exports to Israel, through a company owned by a personal friend, and arms deals.

Investors Mubarak, the former free lady will also be investigated, the minister added, with the first questioning to take place in the next few days at the Sharm el-Sheikh Hospital where the former president is convalescing.

Mubarak's wife, who was involved in a number of high-profile charitable ventures, is suspected of illegally amassing wealth through her foreign investment organizations. AP

Study reveals kids can undo car seatbelts

BOSTON—Children still too young to walk are finding ways to wriggle out of protective car restraints and are increasing their risk of serious injuries, a study shows.

Researchers at Yale University's School of Medicine found some children as young as 12 months can unbuckle their seatbelts. A majority of youngsters less than three years old can do it, with boys more often the ones unwrapping to unbuckle their seatbelts.

"Young children might acquire these seemingly undesirable [transportation] before developing the cognitive ability to understand the necessity of automotive restraints," said Dr. Lilia Reyes, a clinical fellow at Yale and co-author of the report.

Researchers said the findings should prompt a broader study on devices that would keep kids safer, particularly because car crashes are a leading cause of death among four to eight years old. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Euro entries sweep Subic int'l triathlon /A28

SPORTS

Editor Tonyboy B. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ James, Celts meet anew /A29

For Wound Emergency IODOSTRIKE POVIDONE-IODINE Antiseptic IODO mo!

'New Pacquiao' awes sparmate

By Rey Luarca

HOLLYWOOD—The first time he sparred with Manny Pacquiao very much in mind, lightweight Ray Beltran Jr. swears he felt the Filipino superstar's punches "like lightning bolts shooting down my body."

Now, after Pacquiao had jumped up several weight classes, Beltran said the pound-for-pound king's mojo cost hardly.

While Pacquiao's fighting style was mostly predictable then, Beltran said the feared Filipino fighter is a more complete boxer now.

He said Pacquiao is now "technically better in the ring and very unpredictable."

The 30-year-old Beltran, who won a 12-4 award with 13 knockouts, should know.

He has done more rounds with the Fighter of the Decade than anyone else.

After helping prepare Pacquiao for his second fight against Juan Manuel Marquez, Beltran also served as Pacquiao's opponent for his fights against Erik Morales, Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Miguel Cotto and Antonio Margarito before landing crucial for Shane Mosley.

Beltran said that while Pacquiao used to simply overwhelm an opponent with his speed and aggression, now "he's much more."

He said Pacquiao's punches appear to a blur, from virtually all angles, with radar-like accuracy and near-power. And, "they hurt."

Beltran, who perseveres to give Pacquiao the toughest he'll need to beat Mosley on May 7, believes that the Sarangani congressman will win. He declined to predict a knockout, though.

BELTRAN Pacquiao more complete boxer now

He said that Mosley with his ring savvy, might be able to survive an onslaught.

Meanwhile, chief trainer Freddie Roach has ordered a complete rest for his patient until on Sunday.

The right division would champion will only be allowed to bear Mass at the Christ the King Parish.

"I told him to get a full day off tomorrow," said Roach. "Rest get one good rest day before the fight."

"Of course, you'll never know with Manny," added the trainer, noting that in the past, Pacquiao often ignored his order and still did his early-morning runs.

After Saturday's workout—six rounds of sparring, four rounds of shadow boxing and two rounds each of mitts, double end and heavy bags and speedball—Roach said he's convinced Pacquiao is now in peak form and deserves some rest.

Pacquiao, who quickly changed into a gray suit with tie after the run-hour workout at the Wild Card Gym here, earlier told Manila-based sportswriters that he's looking overdone to make sure of a victory over former three-division champion Mosley. He proceeded to Mexico next in Los Angeles for the launch of his "MPH Scent of The Champion" cologne.

CENTRO MANUFACTURING CORPORATION
EXPANDED CENTRO TRAFFIC SIGNBOARD
GO G.I. MAX
100% GALVANIZED IRON TRUCK BODIES
Why Our Dealers and Customers Prefer CENTRO GO G.I. MAX BODY
930-0971 • 419-9083
www.centromanufacturing.com

GET BACK YOUR HAIR PERMANENTLY AT PINEDAHAIR
BEFORE AFTER
Dr. Pineda will be in Davao from April 22 to 24, 2011. Please call today for a free consultation.
MANILA (02) 813-0691
DAVAO (082) 221-2082
www.pinedahair.com

Be a hotspot wherever you go.
sun MyWifi
For broadband connection you can share anytime, anywhere. FREE at Plan 799. Also available under Broadband Plan 449.*
Visit The Sun Shop now! Hotline (02) 249-1111 www.sunbroadband.com.ph
sun broadband

Tams, Bulldogs tackle separate foes

By Cedrik P. Tupas

INFANTERO U and National U try to cling to three lofty positions as they tangle with different rivals today in the PBDB Flying V Intercollegiate Premiere Cup in San Juan.

The Tamaraws, getting sharper with every game, shoot for a fourth straight win against a pumped-up Pacific Agrivalida squad at 12:30 p.m., before the Bulldogs, who skates the Group A lead with Ateneo with a 3-0 record, battle the Lyceum Pirates.

Jose Gilad Uvardo back-to-back wins against fellow NCAA squad St. Benilde at 4 p.m.

Perez will again be on top under Bobby Ray Parks Jr., whose first stint has transformed the Bulldogs into one of the tournament favorites.

The 6-foot-3 Parks, who drew interest from UE NCAA school Georgia Tech before deciding to stay at NU, has been averaging 17 points per outing.

Parks leads a slew of young, energetic recruits of coach Aric Afalavadeno.

The Tamaraws are coming off 67-53 triumph over Mapua last Friday where they delivered a solid defensive effort to form 2-0 win/losers.

But NU coach Eric Flores said it's still too early to gauge the Tamaraws' chances of going all the way in the tournament.

The Tamaraws will be facing an EAC squad still inspired by a 69-66 upset of University of the East last Saturday.

The Realtors are hoping to follow up their 75-70 victory over the Letran Knights.

La Salle-Dasma pair through

DE LA SALLE–Dasmariñas cleaned up Adrian Alcuet and Gisoko Ilarmo hailed tallied could have been instrumental of the Philippines 2-0 perfect elimination round campaign, pulling off a stunning 21-13 victory over the favorites in the 2011 Premier Lasker Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Rajamahl sandstretch in Puerto Princesa City.

The power-spiking Alcuet and Ilarmo sealed the Blue-game streak of UP-Ze Paulene Canada and Ana Maria Del Mundo, to clinch the last ticket to the semifinals. Up next is defending champ Ateneo high lighting the city's "Pangalawa sa Bahay" reunion" celebration.

It was the 22-20 duo's third win in four games, tying their nations at one apiece apiece, and knocked them 21-16 behind of Lasker's Melissa De Jesus and Lara Mae Tolentino.

Canada and Del Mundo will advance to the semifinals against the undefeated University of the East pair of Jeralenly Dizon and Norma Faith Bolan.

Euro entries sweep Subic int'l triathlon

SWISS VETERAN Reto Hug flexed up for his lofty billing yesterday, posting a downthe-wire victory in the men's elite race of the 10th ITU-Asian Subic Bay Powerboat Triathlon at the Subic Bay freeport.

Bucking the energy-sapping humid weather, the three-time Olympian held off Patric Lemeilleur of Germany and Anton Butenko of Russia to win the 1.5K swim, 40K bike and 10K run in one hour, 54 minutes and 22 seconds.

"It was a very very tough race with the humid weather," said Hug, who pulled in front to stay in the final 500 meters of the mid-leg.

"The hilly bike course was also a challenge, that's why I'm really happy with the victory."

Lemeilleur came in two seconds behind Hug, while Butenko clocked in at 1:55:09 to complete a 1-2-3 finish for Europeans in the race organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines in cooperation with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Mikio Hashiguchi was the quickest among the Filipinos, finishing 22nd in 2:09:29, with Neil Gould coming up 32nd in 2:40:31.

The 39-year-old Hashiguchi failed to improve on his national record of 1:59:44 which he set when he finished 16th in the Asian Beach Games in Doha last year.

"This is the hardest race I ever competed in since I joined triathlon," Hashiguchi said.

John Lawrence Chiongson and Jessard Anne clocked in 32nd and 34th, respectively, in a field of 43.

Hug, a veteran of the Sydney, Athens and Beijing Games, teamed in Subic before competing in the Beijing Olympics three years ago and said he is familiar with the hilly course since the last time he visited.

Lemeilleur said he was satisfied with his form, having just targeted a top-10 finish in the event also sanctioned by the International Triathlon Union and Asian Triathlon Confederation.

Japan and Chinese Taipei failed to create a ripple this time in the event backed by Speedo, Danish Salem, Century Tuna, Asian Center for Evaluation Philippines, Gatorade, Prime Hot Tuna, Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee, despite covering the distances of swimming 1.5 of the first 17 NBK fans.

Japanese entry Eshei Shimomura wound up 10th in 1:56:22 while Yang Mao-yung was the best finisher for Chinese Taipei at 20th (2:04:41).

Cebu-ITE Pinay

SWISS racer Reto Hug breasts the tape at the end of the punishing race.

P7-M Ronda Pilipinas a bikathon like no other

By Jane Manaro

WITH A record prize pot of P7 million, the LBC Ronda Pilipinas boasts as the country's biggest and most challenging bikathon ever.

The cycling tour fans off in September and will cover 12 stages spread over 28 days across the archipelago.

Ronda Pilipinas, the richest since the 1996 Shellvee Tour, stakes P1 million each for the individual winner and the team champion.

Hefty cash rewards will also greet stage winners with prizes scaled down to 100k place in the individual category.

A total of 15 teams — at least nine from Luzon and two each from the Visayas and Mindanao — made up of six riders each will be formed after five regional qualifying races to be held in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The regionals start on May 8 in Cebu.

Organized by LBC Express Inc. in a bid to promote awareness of a cleaner environment, Ronda Pilipinas will be a test of strength, speed and endurance over 1,600 kilometers.

"The concept is in line with our corporate mission to provide seamless, speedy and prompt delivery services to our customers from Manila to any point in the country through our nationwide network," said LBC Express president Jose Carlos Aramesa.

As in all previous Tours, the punishing Sagada-to-Baguio lap is expected to decide the overall champion.

The qualifying race in the Visayas will be held in Silay City, Negros Occidental, on May 12 while Mindanao's Bukidnon will host the Mindanao qualifying on May 15.

Interested participants may secure application forms from any LBC branch and Body Project stores or download them at www.rondapilipinas.com. There are no entry fees.

Batangas Bulls get back at Tigers

BATANGAS, STADIUM–Mad Egos and the Batangas Bulls got back at the Tigers on Saturday as the two squads squared off in the Philippine Basketball Association Series 8 at the Dolphy Memorial Basketball Stadium.

The Bulls, who lost to the Tigers one night while getting their title in a match while Mad Egos turned in a four-win outing for the Bulls.

It was a big comeback for the Bulls, who came an eight-1 win lead and dropped a 9-11 loss to the Tigers last April 9.

Cebu exploded with four wins in the last to snag on the Dolphins duel in the Manila Banks four-loss win with a 8-7 victory in the other game.

KYUBOO'S 'Five expert Lithuanis Rondini and Dic Gervacio deny Adamson's Angelo Bonding. MARK NAZARE

Lady Bulldogs roar to semis

By Cedrik P. Tupas

ALVINNE SET surely, National U is finally reaping the benefits of a strengthened women's volleyball program.

The Lady Bulldogs clinched a place in the Shakey's V-League semifinals for the first time in the school's history after outmanning out a thrilling five-set victory over Far Eastern U yesterday in Season 8 Pool Conference at the PBDB Flying V Arena in San Juan.

As the Lady Bulldogs salvaged it up after a 21-25, 20-25, 25-23, 25-22, 15-13 quarterfinal conquest, one of their biggest supporters, businessman Hans Sy, whose family is the majority owner of the university, applauded their achievement from the bleachers area.

"I'm proud of the team," said NU coach Francis Vicente, whose squad joined St. La Salle of Bacolod and Ateneo in the next round.

"They have the will to win. The winning attitude that we want to instill in this team is already there."

The Lady Bulldogs' remarkable fan contributed to a dominant performance by Alinsunurin, which pinned a five lone on Arenas, 20-25, 25-18, 25-19, in the second game.

With the victory, the Lady Maroons remained on track to reaching the Final Four from Group I. Adamson, Sto. Tomas in a virtual knockout match in the remaining semifinal berth on Sunday.

Arenas is already assured of a semifinal berth after winning over Perpetual Help Tuesday.

Adamson paced Ateneo with Nene Bautista, both after a two game absence, finishing 18 points for the Lady Falcons, who overcame a strong challenge in the first set.

The resurgence of NU's wheeling program, 6-1 alumni Denise Dantinga, some through with big plays in the deciding set as the Lady Bulldogs recovered their footings after losing the third and fourth sets.

COKE HOOPLA

Bagumbayan wards off San Jose in 2 OTs

BAGUMBAYAN OUTLASTED San Jose in double overtime, 83-82, Saturday at the Stevens Sports complex to win bragging rights as host of the 22nd Coca-Cola Hoopla National Capital Region Inter-City elimination.

Regulation play ended with the score tied, 65-all. A second extra period was forged after the first overtime ended up with the outcome unresolved, 67-all.

Gil Buenaventura marked inaugural matches in two other cities as well, with Eric Domingo topping this, 50th, 81-80, at Teach-It Village in Cainta, and Mark Nonoy edging Wagui, 84-81, at Barangay 104, Zone 8 in Manila.

Three other teams had smoother outings: Malabon secured Barangay Ugong, 92-67, while Antipolo Mayor Jun Ynares-Santiago and Barangay Dolores Road used its homecourt advantage in shelling Loreto Park, 74-62, at its venue in Caloocan City.

A total cash prize of P500,000 is at stake in the grassroots-to-the-core project launched by JB Baylon, PBA Commish Tiger Cognac and Coca-Cola for public affairs and communications of Coca-Cola Export Corp., with P250,000 going to the event and MCB champion.

A huge 15-game schedule is on tap today as 13 cities play host to Home, with Quezon City and Makati each hosting two matches.

Bigger eyes to rebound from an opening-day loss when it battles Bulacan at 6:30 p.m. at Barangay 71, Zone 6 in Manila.

SEMI-FINALS Pasig 90-72 vs Makati, Sports Complex, Lanang; Pasig 84-81 vs Parang, P. de A. Tuazon Sr. Gym, Marikina; Marikina 77-69 vs Taguig, Brgy. Hall Gym, Marikina; Taguig 84-81 vs Quezon City, Amoranto Sports Complex; Quezon City 90-82 vs Mandaluyong, Brgy. Hall Gym, Mandaluyong; Mandaluyong 84-81 vs Pasay, Cuneta Astrodome; Pasay 84-81 vs Valenzuela, Brgy. Hall Gym, Valenzuela; Valenzuela 84-81 vs Caloocan, Brgy. Hall Gym, Caloocan; Caloocan 84-81 vs Las Piñas, Brgy. Hall Gym, Las Piñas; Las Piñas 84-81 vs Muntinlupa, Philsports Arena; Muntinlupa 84-81 vs Parañaque, Brgy. Hall Gym, Parañaque; Parañaque 84-81 vs Pateros, Brgy. Hall Gym, Pateros; Pateros 84-81 vs Taguig, Philsports Arena; Taguig 84-81 vs Quezon City, Philsports Arena; Quezon City 84-81 vs Mandaluyong, Philsports Arena; Mandaluyong 84-81 vs Pasay, Philsports Arena; Pasay 84-81 vs Valenzuela, Philsports Arena; Valenzuela 84-81 vs Caloocan, Philsports Arena; Caloocan 84-81 vs Las Piñas, Philsports Arena; Las Piñas 84-81 vs Muntinlupa, Philsports Arena; Muntinlupa 84-81 vs Parañaque, Philsports Arena; Parañaque 84-81 vs Pateros, Philsports Arena

Spill derails Buncio's Asia Road Racing stint

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ILAGA 11 MAY 08—Mateo Greg Buncio suffered a spill in the 36th lap, while John Lery Enriquez sputtered from the scene yesterday in a Grumpy Team Suzuki Philippine debut in the 2011 Asia Road Racing Championships at the Isiang International Circuit here.

Buncio, the 22-year-old four-time national champ, was running 12th in the 23-man Superpro Open field in Race 1 when Ahmad Syuhed Saharudin of Malaysia hit his rear wheel coming from the outside at the nearly-over-rating tip-turn of the bird-shaped course.

The impact sent Buncio rolling three times before landing flat on his face. While the Filipino emerged unhurt, he failed to finish the race, where he posted his best lap time of 1 minute 08.449 seconds in the fourth.

"I saw him coming and failed to brake," said Buncio of Saharudin. "I am very disappointed, but hopefully it can recover."

More spills ensued, including one that knocked out top contender Chatchai Polisomsil of Thailand in the 20th lap, forcing officials to abruptly end the race with five laps of the scheduled 25 remaining.

Japanese Katsuaki Hojiwara bagged pole position with a combined time of 22 minutes and 20.206 seconds from Race 1 and 2.

His best lap of 1:06.779 was slower, though, than the record lap clip of 1:06.530 he himself clocked during Saturday's practice round. Chalermpol was second while, Malaysia's Azlan Shah Kamaruzaman secured up third.

Buncio, riding a bike adorned with the Philippine flag on its cowling, started 10th in the field of 33 riders and moved up to 13th overall after three laps.

"I know that I can do better here, I just have to get the right breaks," said Buncio, who like Enriquez, are the only first-timers here.

Enriquez was left far behind at the get-go in the Underbone 150cc category and stayed there the rest of the way to ending 19th overall.

The 17-year-old former Philippine national champion completed 14 laps in 20:09.346.

He registered his best lap of 1:51.308 around the 30C that used only half of its 1.45-kilometer total distance for the race, largely considered as the Asian Moto Grand Prix.

Sixteen-year-old Indonesian Rafid Topan topped the race with a total time of 20:06.527. He had his best lap at 1:44.737 in the 16th.

Hometown ruler Shahril Izzarwan Md Noor took second place, while defending champion Irsh Nijaya of Indonesia was third.

This is the first time Filipinos are vying in all six stages of the regional circuit, which will migrate next to Sentul, Malaysia, in June.

James, Celts meet anew

LEBRON James has a score to settle with the Boston Celtics

MIAMI—LeBron James planned to spend a large part of Saturday studying film, looking for any edge that the Miami Heat may use against the Boston Celtics.

Film from this season, that is.

No need to watch the Celtics in person, or even dig up old tapes. There remains fresh...and sore...memories of Boston's 4-0 playoff sweep of the Heat last year.

The inability to beat Boston is one of the biggest reasons why James is now wearing a Miami Heat uniform. He'll get a third attempt to top the Celtics in a postseason series starting Sunday when the teams collide in Game 1 of what may easily become an epic Eastern Conference semifinal.

"It is personal," James said Saturday. "You don't want to keeping getting beat by the same team, the same team keep sending you home to plan a vacation."

The Celtics, who have 17 NBA championship banners, expected him to say nothing less.

"It would be personal for me," Boston forward Paul Pierce said. "I'm sure he's going to take it personal and you've got to respect his heat."

Unwittingly or not, the Celtics played a huge role in setting up setoff season earlier this year in NBA history. Boston gave James a big push toward Miami for a struggle in northern approach with the Heat that wasn't possible during the two-time MVP's stint with the Cavaliers.

Collectively, James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh figure to run a better alliance, and that theory is about to get put to the real test. They left a combined 20-1 stalker on the bargaining table last summer, and victory in this best-of-seven series may make that money seem exceptionally well-spent.

Not only did Boston oust both Wade (in the first round) and James (in the second round) from last year's playoffs, but the Celtics have won 16 of their last 21 meetings overall against Miami.

Boston hasn't played for a week since sweeping the New York Knicks out of the first round, and the Heat had slow starts to all five games of their series against Philadelphia.

"We're prepared a long time for this," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"LeBron and Wade are going to be great," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "They were great before the series, they're great and they'll be great after."

Francisco blows first title defense

By Dennis G. Eros

PITTSBURH, Thailand—Omar Fromen failed to knock out Thailand's Sornpichit Singsoondee as promised and suffered an even more humiliating unanimous decision loss in his first defense of the IWBA interim super flyweight crown Saturday.

Francisco had the Thai fighter on queer street in the eighth round but Sornpichit survived the onslaught and then finished strong to win before a wildly cheering crowd at an open field arena in Muang district here.

"He was groggy but managed to survive," said Francisco in Filipino, who was given a scathing session for his worst boxing display.

"I strongly believe that I'll come back and learn from this defeat," added Fromen, who suffered his first defeat in 21 fights.

Judges Raul Tato Jr. and Francisco Montesa Dela Rosa scored the Thai at 114-113 but the big surprise was the 117-111 tally by Japanese Takashi Shimokawa.

It left score by Tatoguchi 114-113, 10 KOs) floored the hard-fighting Francisco, of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro, in the final minute of the third round.

Showing no ill-effects of the early knockdown, the 26-year-old Francisco bored aggressively until the eighth, when he caught Tatoguchi with uppercuts.

The pride of South Cotabato Boxing Gym in Gensan, Sarangani, was elated in the judges' scorecards at that point but he lost the next four rounds despite relentless counterpunching.

"It was a good fight. But there was no way I could win," said Sornpichit through an interpreter.

Issued by the IWBA's promotion president and promoter Elmer Antonio said he will stage the Francisco-Sornpichit rematch.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET CONNECTED.

Experience the superior connectivity of the all-new Fiesta, complete with iPod integration and voice-activated features such as Voice Dialing, and Voice Controlled Entertainment. With the exclusive dual-vision Power Shift, the fun never ends. Life's better connected.

ALL-NEW FIESTA

TREND HATCHBACK

TREND SEDAN

Ford

Feel the difference

POUND FOR POUND, THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO VIDEO STREAMING FROM PLDT.

watch-pad

BIG TICKET

ULTIMATE ONLINE VIEWING EXPERIENCE

Introducing BIG TICKET, a PLDT myDSL innovation that boosts your Watchpad with an additional speed so you can heighten your online viewing experience. It makes Internet faster in local sites like Yahoo, Sulit and Facebook. All for just P150 a month, conveniently charged to your landline bill. Because when entertainment's better than it's ever been, it's awesome.

Subscribe to Big Ticket from April 12 to May 5 to watch the Pacquiao-Mosley fight for free. It's also free if you're a Plan 1995 and 3000 subscriber or if you upgrade your myDSL plan. Register now at www.pldtwatchpad.com. An email will be sent to you to confirm your subscription.

Big Ticket is exclusive to Watchpad users. If you're not yet on Watchpad, register at

www.pldtwatchpad.com

Register to Watchpad and enjoy all of its regular channels for free.

HISTORY · CNN · ANIMAX

Only PLDT myDSL's Triple Play Service can give you unlimited broadband + landline + Watchpad. Subscribe now at

www.myworldmydsl.com

PLDT myDSL

Editor Raul G. Manuelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

BCDA to prioritize airport projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

Private partner for Clark terminal seen this year

THE STATE-RUN Bases Conversion Development Authority plans to prioritize the upgrading of the budget terminal at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Clark, Pampanga, by taking in a private partner within this year.

In an interview with reporters, newly appointed BCDA president and chief executive officer Cesar Lim said that the upgrading of a domestic airport to San Fernando, La Union, was now mostly finished. He said this airport, which is under BCDA's subsidiary Nice Hitit Management Corp., could open up a major gateway to Northern Luzon soon.

Concerns also emerged that the forthcoming commencement of the terminal upgrading in Clark or any other similar projects to be undertaken by BCDA would be done in a "fair and square" and "transparent" manner.

"Sometimes, there are accusations that the TOR [terms of reference] is custom-fit to private players. It shouldn't be that way. The bidding must ensure more players who are competent and financially capable," he said.

The upgrading of DMIA, he said, would be done in phases, the first of which would be to upgrade the existing terminal for budget carriers given that this airport was being groomed as a regional hub for low-cost airlines. "If you upgrade the terminal, more carriers will come in," he said. The bidding process for the upgrading of the

Article 10

IN THIS ISSUE

■ **Biz Buzz: Roque's** riposte /B6
■ **Century food group** expands in Papua New Guinea /B4
■ **Breaktime: Lucky** guide /B15
■ **LRT-MRT bidding** moved to July /B15

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 29, 2011
42.800

STOCK MARKET
April 29, 2011
40.68

(For more market reports, see Page B2)

Stocks seen to consolidate

LOCAL STOCKS are seen consolidating this week with some potential upside due to cases of positive surprises in the stream of first-quarter earnings reporting.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index ended last Friday at 3,318.61, 1.35 percent higher than a week ago, as investors took heart from indications of good first-quarter corporate results.

Banco de Oro Unibank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said last week's performance suggested a near-term rise to the 4,400 levels. "Failure to clear the said level could call for a retest of the 4,200 levels," he said.

AB Capital Securities said that this week, the major domestic market-moving developments would be the release of earnings results, the April inflation data and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' monetary policy meeting on May 5.

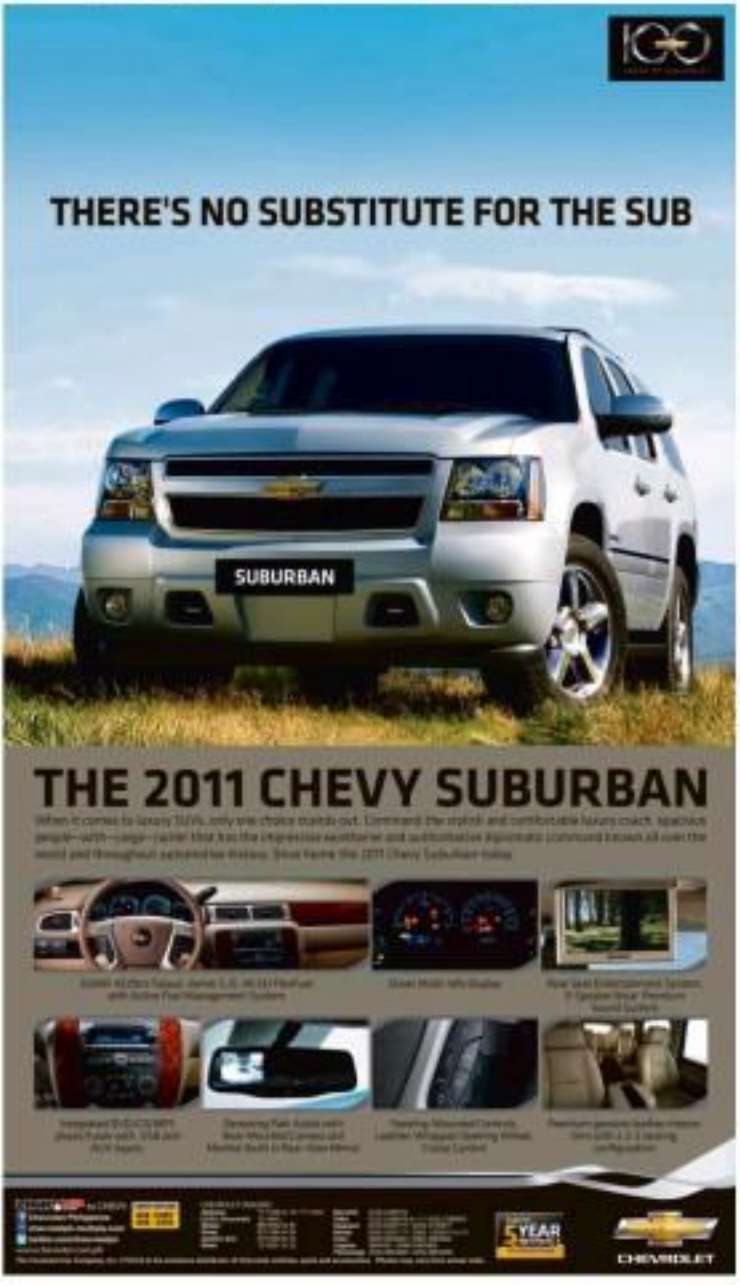
Due to announce their financial results this week are Manila Electric Co., Metro Equity Ventures, Manila Power Corp. and Ebiscom Land Inc.

"The inflation [number] is important as it will be a major consideration in the BSP's next decision on monetary policy. We are projecting April's inflation rate to be steady at around 4.6 percent compared to 4.3 percent last March," AB Capital said.

The local brokerage said collateral materials, which have been available, would also continue to influence sentiments in the local market. But even as volatility has dimmed down, it believed that share prices were trending at overbought levels for more than a month now.

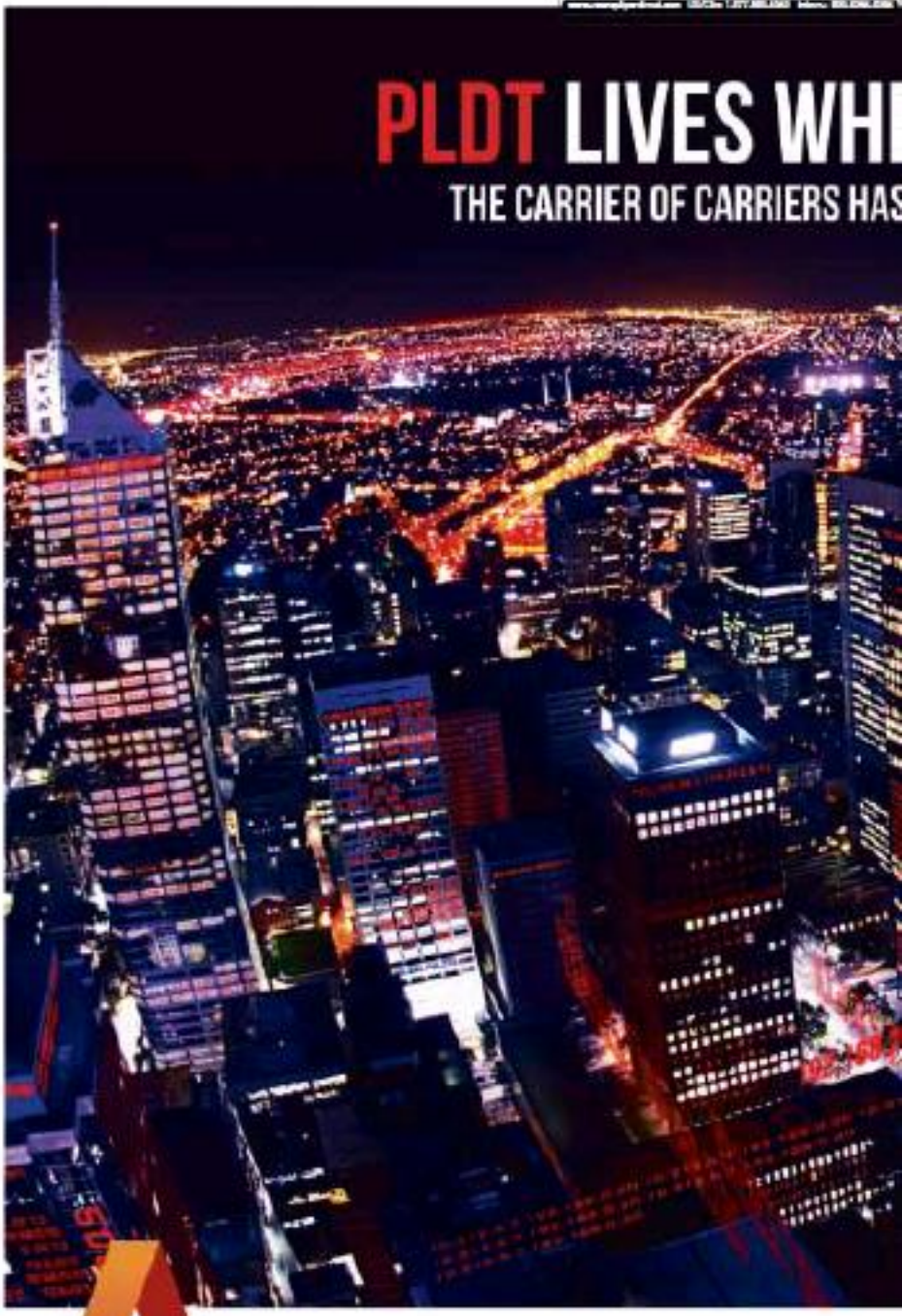
"Local share prices have rallied for six consecutive weeks now, despite posting a similar run-rate in an October of last year. The sustainability of the winning streak will depend on results of the major shares we have mentioned for [this] week. If we don't get any major surprises or other market-moving catalyst, we should see the market go into a consolidation mode," AB Capital said.

AB Capital sees this week PSEi support at 4,340 and resistance at 4,390. **Doris C. Dumlao**



PLDT LIVES WHE

THE CARRIER OF CARRIERS HAS



PLDT ALPHA ENTERPRISE

Relationships First

PLDT's Next Generation Network is Biggest in bandwidth, Widest in reach and Boldest in realizing innovations. Today, PLDT ALPHA Enterprise uses NeGN to deliver no less than secure and reliable network connectivity to top corporate institutions.

Robust and highly resilient, PLDT NeGN's unparalleled all-fiber backbone stretches throughout the country to meet businesses' complete data and voice networking needs. Our unmatched gateway to the global internet allows us to provide high-performance broadband connectivity nationwide. PLDT NeGN is seamlessly linked to global networks with the most number of international partners, bridged by a diverse network of cable systems and landing station options.

ERE YOU DREAM

GOT YOUR BUSINESS COVERED

LDT NxGN is poised to keep up with the nation's growth momentum as we continue to engthen our existing network capabilities and infrastructure. PLDT's MEF 9 and 14 rtifications awarded by the Metro Ethernet Forum affirm our compliance to set global andards and service quality commitments.

LDT NxGN just keeps pushing further and harder. Philippine enterprise evolves and ves into new frontiers and possibilities with the PLDT Next Generation Network perience.

his is PLDT's NxGN. Biggest. Widest. Boldest. It's what PLDT ALPHA Enterprise ustomers demand and deserve. For the next generation of success.

PLDT NXGN MEF

Visit us at www.pldt.com.ph
or call 88-ALPHA
for more information

BUSINESS

JTC Group of Companies goes worldwide with SAP Business All-in-One Solution and fasttrack

JTC Group of Companies, the premier franchisee of various re-nowned fast food chains in the Philippines and C-Mart Convenience Stores, acquires SAP All-in-One (AIO) Solutions to effectively manage financials and keep pace with the rapidly evolving business trends and customer demands. SAP is the world's largest business software company with 76% of the Forbes top 1000 companies running SAP software.

C-Mart Convenience Store is a new venture under the umbrella of JTC Group of Companies founded by Mr. Rico Cuatro Cruz, VP for C-mart Operations. It aims to become a premier convenience shop that will synchronize the retail convenience to convenience stores as they need to maintain a system responsive to its needs and will support its plans for expansion. SAP together with its premier partner, FastTrack Solutions, Inc. (FTSI) will be working hand in hand for the project's successful implementation. FTSI is SAP's 1st Gold Partner and has the largest SAP implementation in the South.

JTC's vision of expanding their business ventures spread them to acquire SAP to maintain operational excellent, a quick insight and confidence in decision-making, better adjustment rates, increase precision of operations, and improve scalability. Outnumbering competitors is a big challenge for JTC and they trust that SAP and FastTrack will definitely help them an smart way to success and business growth.

Present in the photo standing from (left to Right, Elena De Vera – Acctg Supervisor; Ms. Jo Ann Manalo-Acctg – Acctg Supervisor (EMS); Maria Theresa de Dala Cerna – Group Manager (EMS); Armando Balbuena – Warehouse Manager; Celerino Endico – CFA President; Rico Cuatro Cruz – Jr. VP for Operations; C-Mart; Lito Dantinguasa – Project Director; Ben Guerrero – FEGS Consultant; Mario Vergara – SD Consultant; Jaime Dolera – Project Manager – Standing in front are Dr. Jaime Cruz – CEO and Mr. Joseph Buenaventa – Jr. Sales Director.

Signing off the Project Commitment Banner are (from left to right) – Mr. Celerino Endico, CEO; Rico Cuatro Cruz, Senior VP for Operations; Joseph Buenaventa, SAP IC – Sales Director; and Ivy Dimagiba, SAP IC – Project Director.

Century food group expands in Papua New Guinea

$20-M tuna venture with Thai firm, Frabelle

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CENTURY food group has teamed up with leading global tuna supplier Thai Union and local fishing giant Frabelle to build a $20-million tuna processing plant in Papua New Guinea, lured by the Oceania country's rich tuna and deep-sea fisheries resources.

By starting its out wider ties a three-way partnership with global leaders in seafood processing and fishing, the Century Pacific Group (CPG) is building overseas capacity reportedly for its "private label" tuna manufacturing business. Apart from selling its own-canned tuna brands like Century, 555, Blue Sky and Permas, CPG exports to international buyers that, in turn, market canned fish under their own brands.

Christopher Po, president of CPG, Hong Kong Inc., a company controlled by the Tan family's Century Canning Corp., said the new plant in Papua New Guinea would have an initial daily capacity of 120 metric tons. Phase one is in place to eventually upgrade to 300 to 350 MT, to equal(y) Thai-size equal (PG) own total capacity in the Philippines.

CPG's local manufacturing plant in General Santos, Mindanao, typically runs at 70-80 percent of its rated capacity but whenever margins improve, the factory is operated at full capacity.

He said in an interview last week that Papua New Guinea was picked for the group's first offshore manufacturing venture because "that's the most productive tuna ground in the world." He added that the new plant, a joint of which would be owned by CPG, should be operational early next year.

CPG created the partnership with the Thi Lamd family's Frabelle Fishing Corp. and Thai Union Manufacturing Co. Ltd. under a company called Pilipinas Seafoods Corp., which will own and operate the factory in Papua New Guinea. CPG founder and chair Dioscoro Roño and his nephew Po interview with the business.

The palmed's and the venture New Guinea's low power head and finished recently, allowing canneries to start. He said the eventual factory should be 50-percent operational by June, which in turn would allow the venture to obtain from Papua New Guinea's low power needed to bring in the necessary fishing boats.

The OG founder said his

CENTURY 89

AWESOME PROJECTION
vivitek

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS

HARD COPY

Malampaya funds eyed to lower power rates

Assistance to 'critical' local industries

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY SECRETARY Jose Rene D. Almendras said he was amenable to the proposal of the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association (Pippa) to tap P200 million (roughly P13.5 billion) of the royalties that the government earned from the Malampaya operations to help lower electricity prices in the country.

Almendras noted that the amount could help fund the Industry Competitiveness Fund (ICF), which he said was going to cost the government P62 billion.

The ICF referred to a subsidy scheme meant to support and rationalize the grant of special power rates to industrial entities. It was meant not only to keep the existing investments, but also to make the country more attractive to foreign investors and create job opportunities.

It was only in May 2009 that former President Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 796 establishing the ICF with an initial allocation then of P1.6 billion to cover discounts granted to certain large industrial customers.

However, Almendras admitted that based on provisions of existing policies, the Malampaya royalties were not meant to be used for the purpose of lowering power rates since the funds were earmarked for "energy sources."

For example, the national government recently tapped P8 billion from the Malampaya royalties and allocated the amount for the Armed Forces of the Philippines to boost security forces within prospective and existing petroleum exploration areas in the country.

But the energy chief said he would still look into the proposal and study how this mechanism could be implemented, to see whether it would merit a bigger push.

Pippa president Ed Aguirre Puri argued earlier on the importance of the group's proposal as the interest was couched to help lower rates to "critical" local industries as well as to marginalized consumers.

Pippa was also pushing for the removal of the value-added tax (VAT) on power generation, which Malampaya and would definitely make an impact since generation charges accounted for 60 percent of a consumer's electricity bill.

Batangas noted that the Electric Power Industry Reform Act had originally prescribed zero-rated VAT for all types of power generation, but that the Department of Finance later decided to slap the 12-percent VAT on non-renewable sources to help boost government coffers. However, that meant an additional cost to the consumer, he added.

Investors losing interest in ethanol production

PROSPECTIVE ETHANOL investors have ceased to either defer or pull out their planned projects in the country as external issues on the top position of higher import tariffs and the establishment of a pricing index for ethanol remained unresolved.

According to the latest Distributed Roadmap circulated by the Industry, the list of distributed investors has been reduced to only nine from more than 20 companies that submitted project proposals in 2008 and 2009.

The reduction may further derail the already delayed development of the local ethanol industry.

As of mid-2010, the "prospective" companies which remained keen on investing in the local ethanol industry included Green Future Innovations Inc., Cauayan Bioenergy Inc., Central Azucarera Don Pedro Inc., Pure Ethanol Corp., Negros Biofuels, Biofuels International, Cauayan Bioenergy, Agro-Industrial Corp., Al Samarah, Central Luzon Bioenergy Inc. and Phil. Mitsubishi Biofuels Corp.

Though these companies push through with their projects, the ethanol industry can expect P68 billion in fresh investments over the next several years.

These projections on pumping out additional 540 million liters of ethanol supply to the country annually data from the Distributed Roadmap showed.

However, comparing the latest list to the August 2009 roadmap will show that several projects may have been put in the backburner as several critical issues are still being threshed out.

Amy R. Remo

QUBE CCTV
www.qube.asia
CCTV 4-Camera Package
• Standalone DVR (4CH) w/ Qube USB mouse
Hi Definition VGA & HDMI output
• 4 Pcs. Sony Chipset (Ultra Clear Wide View)
Night Vision Camera with BNC and Power Adaptor
• 500GB Hard Drive (Upgrade up to 3 TB)
Watch your Home and Office from anywhere in the World.
P13,999.00

HONDA
www.stylespacejazz.com
cruising through city traffic + packed for a week-long cruise
Jazz
Get the Jazz brochure at the showrooms and experience the new Jazz in 3D!
style + space
LOW
HONDA

Don't compromise.
My bank has more than US$100 billion in group assets.
My bank is one of Asia-Pacific's largest and strongest banks.
My bank has local touch and global reach.
My bank is Maybank.
Maybank

Roque's riposte

BIZ BUZZ
By Boo Chanco

BANGO FILIPINO lawyer Harry Roque Jr. wrote us last week saying Biz Buzz "deliberately omitted vital facts, thereby betraying the BSP values of fair presentation while presumably guarding the BSP versus Banco Filipino credibility from the journalists' bar."

In particular, he said Biz Buzz did not disclose that the P500,000 that he billed for a short "was intended for bail purposes only, temporarily revoked by SP in its critical fight to stave off a bank run caused by a barrage of smear media campaign caused by the Stranges-led BSP raid in paid hacks."

He added that the amount was duly approved by the BSP-appointed conservators, hence, no such ad hoc purpose fund was received by my firm and the intended sub did not see print.

"Mr. Chanco has shown keen interest in press and sentience and has demonstrated unusual skill and extraordinary talent at obtaining unsolicited information from 'the BSP,' he said. "If therefore his readers should wonder how some eye-popping billions spread by the Stranges-led BSP have escaped his keen eyes?"

He goes on to detail the billions of pesos temporarily spent by BSP execs the years for salaries for personnel and consultants, travel expenses, and other unspecified expenses.

"Mr. Chanco has sadly betrayed bias, still as a conscious and willing participant in the public villification of parties who are making a valid claim against the BSP," he said. —Jaymee C. Lanot

We say...

WELL, just a couple of things, really.

Biz Buzz never said Atty. Roque got "paid" for any ads. We only said he "billed" his client for it. Although it must be strange to bill a client (BSP/OIC a service is rendered ;).

Atty. Roque says the P500,000 was meant for ads to reply to a smear campaign against the bank. But the billing statement was dated Feb. 10, 2011, almost a month before Banco Filipino's troubles began. That billing statement was also much just three days after several newspapers ads were published in the papers, with Atty. Roque as a signatory. Coincidence? Hmmm.

Biz Buzz's Doctor Lanot has been accused of being a paid hack many times before, especially when writing about the closure of problematic financial institutions like Urban Bank in 2008 and the Legacy Group in 2009. Given how things have played out in those cases, the accusations have always turned out to be bunkum of course. ###

Telco ripples

AS EXPECTED of any major corporate consolidation, the PLDT-Digitel deal is facing serious operational kinks that must be smoothened before synergies could be attained from their combined scale.

For instance, the Visayas-Mindanao network expansion of Digitel's Sun Cellular is in kinks given recent developments. Our sources say network vendor Ericsson was awarded the contract for the 3G/HSPA expansion but with the recent deal, the rollout program has been frozen indefinitely. Some Sun employees are also understandably jittery over possible job cuts and wondering whether long-serving staffers would partake of the Golden-wife golden parachute in this deal.

On the other side of the fence, meanwhile, Smart is currently caught a wire week-long set of "closed-door" meetings with broad partner Ayala group spearhead some Ayala execs' "concern plans" to counteract strategic and tactical battle plans against the new much larger opposition. Since the Ayalas and BusTel intend to keep clubs Telecom and insist that "mergers of this nature are not without their problems," they intend to use their rivals' period of adjustment to gain market share. Ouch. —C. Bordado

Sunrise

HUSH, in the telecommunications industry are shaking their heads and doubting their tongues as the luck and skill of Simon al. Telecommunications Commission chief Ronaldo Cordoba, who remains head of the regulatory agency despite his apparently close links with the previous administration.

Cordoba had previously served as undersecretary at the Office of the President (supposedly serving as the personal appointments secretary of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo) and a (currently) brother of Rep. Mikey Arroyo.

Without impugning his abilities as a regulator, our source said Cordoba has the support of an "Influential National Church" group partly to thank for his continued tenure at the NTC.

The source even went on TV recently attesting comfortably beside Secretary Sonny Coloma during a Palace press briefing. —Daniel L. Asido

BWPP for sale (parts of it, at least)

WITH Japan facing a nuclear crisis of Chernobyl proportions, even solid individuals and groups are probably repenting that ever own Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) was mothballed from the start. Since mind that millions of dollars to (adjusted) money—somewhere around $50 million, even though it's spent over just to maintain the plant that never ran.

There have been talks of rehabilitating it and possibly running it, but that doesn't seem all that ideal at this point, given the Japan experience. So what does a costly dropped cashier like we do with a nuclear elephant like that if we're (never going) to run Lucayan? Why sell its parts, of course.

That seems like the most logical step, but it is only now, after almost three decades of the plant's useless existence, that this option is being seriously considered. An American firm operating a plant similar to the BNPP has offered to buy some parts of the mothballed facility and the state-owned National Power Corp. management is open to the proposal.

Instead of just selling specific parts, however, Napocor wants to sell the BNPP lock, stock and barrel, sans the structures and the civil works. If the American firm agrees to such an arrangement, then the BNPP may finally be of some use to the country. —Abigail L. Kho

Got business alerts and a preview of the stars' lives? Tweeting before it's news out. Text ON BIZ (BUSINESS) to 4467 (PLDT subs).

BCDA

From page B1

Budget reversal could be done within the year, he said.

But converting CIMA into the country's main international gateway, Chuanyan said, would require the building of an entirely new airport in Clark. BCDA is involved in this undertaking being the parent firm of Clark International Airport Corp. and Clark Development Corp.

Several big groups like Sun Miguel Corp. and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. have expressed interest in developing CIMA into the country's international gateway in the future, given the geographical limitations of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In the Palace, Casanova said the San Fernando airport investment could also be one of the projects that could be offered under the public-private partnership framework to infrastructure building.

The BCDA has set its invested P500-million to extend the airport's runway to accommodate bigger aircraft with the aim of at least the Boeing 747, a short-to-medium-range, narrow-body jet.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

Century food group expands

group was exporting prawn sponges, with its two partners, both of them being global leaders in their respective fields.

"The beauty of this partnership is that the three of us have our own strengths," Pa'Ole said.

Pa'Ole, who is led by businessman Francisco 'Tia Lazard Jr., is a fully integrated seafood company that has long established itself as a processing and fishing operation in Papua New Guinea. It is also part of a local group that acquired the PT Dong Tuna processing plant in Indonesia.

The Thai Union group is the leading producer and exporter of frozen and canned seafood in Thailand and the biggest tuna canning company in the world currently supplying about a fifth of global demand.

The government of Papua New Guinea requires foreign investors to set up seafood processing plants before allowing them to conduct fishing operations. This is to create new jobs given that tuna processing is a labor-intensive industry.

A Seminar for Realty Investors, Owners & Professionals
NOTES ON REAL ESTATE ECONOMICS
AND WHAT CAUSES
THE UPS & DOWNS OF REAL ESTATE VALUES
with techniques on how to increase real estate values
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Aboitiz Foundation supports formal education of street kids

A total of 148 kids recently "graduated" from a street education program sponsored by the Aboitiz Foundation Inc. and the Children of Light Foundation Inc. in the Pier 4 area in Cebu City.

Of the 148 "graduates," 108 will be given the opportunity by the Aboitiz Foundation to receive formal elementary education starting school year 2011-2012. Completing the 148 children are the top 10 performers from the program's five locations — Sitio Paradise in Barangay 41, Pantao, Barrio Obrero in T. Padilla, Pier Area in Tejero, Barangay Lapulapu (also in T. Padilla), and Sitio Lupa in Barangay Lahug.

The scholarship will be good until the children finish elementary, provided that they maintain good academic standing and have up with the required general assigned average. After which, they will be considered for the foundation's high school scholarship program.

"We are happy that they are now ready to take another step in their learning journey," said Federico Aboitiz, the CEO and president of Aboitiz Foundation, in a statement sent to Inquirer.net.

For the last 10 years, the Aboitiz Foundation has been supporting CCF's street education program, which was introduced as an informal way of teaching underprivileged 4 - to 6-year-olds who live in Cebu City's urban poor areas where they can socialize and carry child development programs and has about 250 kids are supported every year.

In these classes, children are taught basic literacy, numeracy, guidance and counseling, recreation activities, and spiritual and moral formation. These additional inputs prepare them for integration into formal education.

aboitiz
Equity Ventures
NOTICE AND AGENDA OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.

AboitizPower
A Jollibee Group
NOTICE AND AGENDA OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.

Cherry Mobile's First 3G Android Dual SIM Powered by Qualcomm

As Cherry Mobile enters its 2nd year in the Philippine mobile communications industry, it is still determined to reach new milestones that no one would possibly expect. At the start of 2010, many were surprised when Cherry Mobile released its first smartphone, the Eclipse. The first Dual-SIM smartphone in the local market with Microsoft's Windows Mobile 6.5 platform happened to be the most affordable device at that time. A few months after, the Eclipse 2 beefed up by it's improved software was also launched in the market to give an additional choice to potential smartphone users. Then, on October 2010, Cherry Mobile launched its first Android smartphone line-up that consists of the Nova, the Magnum HD, and Superion, also known as the first tablet phone in the Philippines. Cherry Mobile continues its brilliance as they double the fun with their newest addition to their collection.

Mobile phone users nowadays bring multiple phones for various reasons. Some would use distinctive SIM cards for personal use and business purposes. Most prefer to save money when connecting to their family, friends and business associates by utilizing the unlimited services offered by these mobile operators. Those factors make them carry multiple phones all the time, which is inconvenient. While Dual-SIM phones are now in the market to address this need, there was a clamour for a Dual-SIM smartphone that comes with the most popular mobile platform in the world today.

Thus, Cherry Mobile presents the ORBIT - the 1st 3G Android Dual-SIM Smartphone powered by Qualcomm.

The Cherry Mobile Orbit has the Qualcomm MSM 7225-1 processor under its hood that is capable to handle the Dual-SIM feature. The Orbit comes with the complete set of wireless connectivity such as 3G, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth & GPS that are reliable for internet surfing, sending/receiving emails, social networking like Facebook & Twitter, or navigation. It also comes with a 5 Megapixel Camera that can let you capture photos on the go. And if you need extra memory for your multimedia files, the Orbit's external storage can accommodate up to 32GB with a Micro SD card. All these are not complete without the Android 2.2 mobile operating platform along with its Google Mobile Services such as Gmail, Google Search, Google Maps, and Google Marketplace where more than 100,000 applications can be downloaded.

Cherry Mobile's expertise in Dual-SIM phones is finally present in the Orbit. Its Dual-SIM feature is easy to use, even first-time users will find it easy to make calls or send SMS from any of the SIM cards installed in the phone. When making a call, pressing the call button will give the user an option on which line the user would like to use. It's the same for sending or replying to a text message. It's that simple.

Since Cherry Mobile tied up with Qualcomm in creation of the ORBIT, consumers can be sure that this smart handset has outstanding traits that will work not only with business people or gadget lovers, but even with users who haven't used a smartphone before. Qualcomm is a wireless telecommunications company that plays a pivotal role in the major developments in the mobile industry. It is also the world's largest chipset supplier that is trusted and used by top mobile phone brands.

The Cherry Mobile Orbit is available in 2 colours - Black or Silver. You can own this handset for a price of P12,990.

BUSINESS

BSP welcomes US Fed move to keep rates low

Regulator shrugs off potential surge in portfolio funds

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has welcomed the move of the US Federal Reserve to keep its policy rate at historic low, shrugging off potential consequences of a continued surge in foreign hot money.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. acknowledged in an interview that record low US interest rates would attract more foreign portfolio funds to emerging markets like the Philippines, that will likely yield a higher return.

This surge is a cause for concern because too much inflow of foreign hot money causes the peso to strengthen or appreciate, thus putting exporters at a disadvantage.

However, Tetangco said that the move of the US Fed is necessary to help keep the world's biggest economy mired in recovery from the recent recession.

"I'm one hand, it [low US interest rate] can cause a continuation of capital flows in emerging markets. On the other hand, there is a need to support the US economy," Tetangco said.

"It US economy performing better is good for the global economy," Tetangco added.

Low interest rates help prop up an economy as these beef up demand for bank loans, which in turn helps boost economic and investments.

The Philippines' economic performance is greatly influenced by the US economy as the United States is one of the biggest export markets for Philippine-made goods.

It is also home to many overseas Filipino workers, whose remittances help boost economic activities in the Philippines.

The recent move of the US government to inject money into its economy and to keep interest rate at a record low (at zero to 25 basis points) has created a stir among policy-makers worldwide.

Some governments of emerging markets, which saw a rise in foreign hot money inflows and rising currencies as consequences, earlier complained against the policy stance of the United States.

The US government, however, said it was keen on sustaining recovery of the US economy.

For money inflows to the Philippines surged last year to $4.6 billion from only $388 million the previous year, thus prompting to the peso.

Tetangco said that this time, however, there may be few complaints against low US interest rates.

He said that the move of some European central banks to raise key interest rates would somehow temper the surge in foreign hot money inflows to emerging markets like the Philippines.

"I don't think there will be an other currency war [heated up protests between emerging markets versus currencies appreciating and low rates in rich countries]," Tetangco said.

EDC studies Japan impact

By Abigail L. Ho

THE EQUITY investment Executive Council is set to conclude this Friday the impact of the Japan crisis on the country's export targets, to give the government and the private sector a clearer idea of how to cope with the challenges that this unexpected event has brought.

In a telephone interview, EEC executive director Jesus Felisco said that the council's executive committee meeting would deal with these issues. However, since the situation was still very fluid, the full effects of the crisis on the country's trade might not be determined until May or June.

"We know that there will be an effect on us, but we still don't know how much. Our agricultural exports will surely be affected, especially our mangoes. We only have one and a half to two months of peak period for mangoes, and that's almost over time we have logistical problems, we'll have to divert to domestic markets. But we believe that effects are very short-term," he related.

At this point, he said the electronics sector seems to be most affected by the supply chain problem caused by the Japan crisis, was still relatively unaffected. Still, the sector would be closely watched.

The latest Philippine Export Development Plan maps out strategies to more than double the country's exports from around $50 billion last year to over $120 billion by 2016.

INFOTECH

From Smart, a tablet easy on the pocket

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMINANT CARRIER Smart Communications Inc. has launched its new low-cost tablet computer, in line with its goal to "democratize" the broadband service and increase the level of Internet access in the country.

In a statement, the company said it would bring in the Orion made ZTE V9, a 7-inch dubbed 2.2 powered tablet. This will be bundled with Smart Bro—the wireless Internet service of Smart affiliate Smart Broadband Inc.

Launched last week, the ZTE V9 is Smart's most affordable tablet computer to date with a suggested retail price of P13,795.

"The ZTE V9 is an affordable way for our subscribers to get the rich Internet experience of desktops and laptops, and the convenience and portability of Internet-capable mobile phones," said Orlando B. Vea, Smart's chief wireless adviser. "We know that many Filipinos still access the Internet mainly through Internet cafés and work or school computers. With low-cost Internet devices such as this, we aim to increase the country's Internet population, by enabling more people to easily have their own personal Internet access device."

Initially being offered for prepaid subscription, Smart is making available the ZTE V9 on affordable payment terms. Subscribers may pay in six monthly installments at no interest through participating credit cards.

It comes with a Smart Bro prepaid SIM with 5 days of unlimited Internet browsing. Subscribers may then register the Smart Bro prepaid accounts to any of Unlimited Packages, the Mobile Packages, or All Text Packages.

Smart officials expect Smart Bro to "revolutionize" the way subscribers use data services through the ZTE V9, the company said.

With its limited operating, the new tablet can easily be customized by users, who can make their tablet more relevant to their needs and preferences with downloadable applications or apps.

These apps, thousands of which are available in the Android Market, can expand the tablet's functionalities with various information, connectivity, social networking, gaming and multimedia services—all supported by Smart Bro's connectivity. These apps will also make it easier for Smart to deploy future data-driven services directly to subscribers.

Aside from its data-centric features, Smart Bro Prepaid subscribers using the ZTE V9 may also use their Smart Bro account to access the tablet's SMS and voice call functions.

Other key features of the ZTE V9 include a 0.3 MP camera, Wi-Fi, 3200 mAh battery, storage memory expandable up to 32GB, and built in apps, such as multimedia player, maps, YouTube, e-mail and others.

With the launch of the ZTE V9, and with other affordable tablets and smartphones coming soon, Smart officials are confident that they will be able to capture new subscribers, especially for its broadband services.

"We may think that we already have a mature and active Internet user group, but only around 30 percent of the country's total population has Internet connectivity," said Vea.

Research firm Gartner earlier this year said tablets have already outsold notebook computers in the consumer electronics market. With the emergence of several low-cost tablets, Gartner expects sales of tablets to more than triple this year.

UPC-Nissan was recently awarded the Grand Prize for World Mercedes Excellence shown here over 100 Nissan sales companies globally. This is the second year UPC took hold of the prestigious citation from Nissan Motor Co., Ltd. in recognition of its overall performance and its remarkable growth in the previous fiscal year. In photo is UPC COO Ms. Elizabeth H. Lee with Nissan Senior Executive Division representative Hirokazu Shiozaki

A laptop that can flash images on most walls

By Raquel P. Gomez

A LAPTOP that has a built-in projector, anyone?

Japanese PC maker Fujitsu recently came out with with a laptop fitted with a pico projector.

The Lifebook SH761 is Fujitsu's flagship device that features a 10-megapixel digital camera. Once removed, a pico projector accessory, which is sold separately may be inserted in its place turning the laptop into a useful device for presentations.

This premium business laptop, which is powered by Intel's second generation Core processor and NVIDIA graphics processor, also has a unique ergonomic swivel wheel that sits beside the touchpad.

It is also fitted with LED-illuminated fingerprint sensor with vertical function, fingerprint sensor technology in notebooks don't save, but what sets this feature apart from the rest is the software that comes with it. With the software, the fingerprint sensor isn't only limited for user identification process to gain access to the notebook, it is also used to gain access to multiple Web services or accounts at the fingers tap the ability to keep and access multiple accounts.

Another unique feature is a filter that traps dust entering in from the exhaust system to ensure that the inside of the device is dust free for optimum operation at all times. The small dust filter, which resides at the bottom of the laptop, can easily be taken out and washed with water.

Apart from a spill-proof keyboard, the Lifebook SH761 boasts of a rough magnesium alloy body and features a 13.3-inch SuperFine XD backlit display that has 200 nits brightness.

Fujitsu also announced the launch of a new line of laptops powered by Intel's second generation

LIFEBOOK SH761

Core processors—the Lifebook SH565, Lifebook SH751, Lifebook P771 and P8705, Lifebook T901, Lifebook A6501 and Lifebook LH701 and LH531.

Edmund Lim, product marketing manager, Fujitsu PC Asia Pacific Ltd., said these new laptops are energy efficient and equipped with user-friendly features that would satisfy the needs of even the most demanding business professionals.

Need answers to your most pressing marketing and innovation concerns? Need to gain actionable consumer insights, marketing cost and changing consumer attitudes in the marketplace?

Mansmith and Fielders, Inc. presents

THE 7TH MARKET MASTERS CONFERENCE

MARKETING INNOVATION:

Understanding Brands, Channels and Shoppers

May 10, 2011 | Tuesday | 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM | Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Blvd.

Learn from the top retailer masters of companies like: SM Malls, Jollibee, Mercury Drug and Watsons. Join us for an afternoon of wisdom and experience sharing and find out about the "next wave" during these growing times.

MARKETING INNOVATION

HOW TO SELECT A WINNING VALUE PROPOSITION FOR BOTH CONSUMERS AND CHANNEL

HOW TO DISRUPT THE MARKETPLACE WITH INNOVATIVE BRANDED CONCEPTS

HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR CHANNEL AND DOMINATE YOUR NEW MARKET SPACE

HOW TO INCREASE SALES BY EFFECTIVE SHOPPER MARKETING

Organized by: Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.

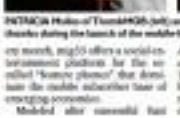
ABENSON | Watsons | Mercury Drug

Mob muscles in on PH 'Net action

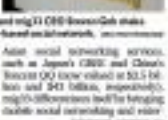
THE LITTEST rush on the game of an ordinary denizen launch where the food is good and the drinks, instructing.

Shortly after the last ball opened and the person printables arrived—the most lethal of which happened to be a walks-resurrection of the most females bang that left all others senses numb—officials of ThumbMOB Philippines Inc., a developer and publisher of Southeast Asian-themed mobile apps and games, announced the launch of mig33 in the Philippines.

With over 47 million users worldwide, mig33 is a global chat messages exchanged daily and over 4 million virtual gifts purchased every month, mig33 offers a social entertainment platform for the so-called "feature phones" that dominate the mobile industry's lower of emerging economies.



PATRICIA Mateo of ThumbMOB (left) and mig33 CEO Steven Goh shake thumbs during the launch of the mobile-based social network



Modeled after successful East Asian social networking services, such as Japan's GREE and China's Tencent QQ (now valued at $3.5 billion and $43 billion, respectively), mig33's features itself by bringing mobile social networking and entertainment services to billions of consumers in rapidly growing mobile markets such as Indonesia, India, South Africa, the Middle East and the Philippines.

"We are very excited to launch in the Philippines," said mig33 CEO Steven Goh. "Mig33 has become the world's biggest mobile first community by voluntarily focusing on entertainment and we owe—belonging the love well to the most people."

The social network site's members are available worldwide—and registered for more than 8,000 handsets.

ThumbMOB has localized the mig33 mobile app, which can be downloaded from http://www.thumbmob.net/mig33/. You may also point your phone browser to http://m.thumbmob.net/mig33.

BY K. OSMA

Nang Tinapay signs up for PLDT SME Nation's Negosyo Boost Internet Anywhere

Introduced to the baking industry via the family owned Julie's Bakeshop, Dr. Gandhara started by managing two stores through just windows and shops with Alexandra Arias (table) Head Joey Francisco, PLDT SME Nation Business Head Nilo Bandilan, Mang Tinapay CEO Dr. Jose Enrico R. Gandionco, Mang Tinapay Finance Manager Peter Nel Valdezco and PLDT SME Visayas Area Sales Supervisor Arvie Fe Dublusan.

DOF: Revenue-to-GDP ratio to pick up by '13

'Fear factor' deters tax cheats, exec says

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance plans to improve the government's revenue-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio to attain pre-Asian crisis levels by 2013.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said that by then, the ratio would have reached 17.1 percent, comparable to the ratios seen before the Asian financial crisis struck the region in the late 1990s.

Purisima added that by 2016, the ratio could reach 19.6 percent.

Currently, the ratio stands at nearly 13 percent.

The Philippines aims to improve its credit rating to investment grade over the medium term, or before the term of President Aquino ends in 2016.

Credit rating firms point to the country's relatively low revenue-to-GDP ratio as a key factor behind the Philippines' existing credit standing.

Revenue-to-GDP ratio, a closely watched indicator, is the ratio of the government's revenue collection—both tax and non-tax—relative to the country's overall output.

A high ratio indicates strong ability of the government to increase revenue collection as the economy grows and people and businesses earn more.

A low ratio reflects government inefficiency in revenue collection.

The ratio is used by credit rating firms as a gauge of a government's ability to pay maturing debts and meet other financial obligations.

Purisima expressed confidence that the revenue-to-GDP projections would be attained over the medium term, citing the government's intensified efforts to go after tax cheats.

"The fear factor is working," he told reporters.

Every week, the Bureau of Internal Revenue files tax evasion cases to encourage the public to settle their tax obligations.

Purisima said getting an investment grade for the Philippines is possible within President Aquino's term.

Currently, the Philippines is rated three notches below investment grade by BlueSky's Eurobank Berlon, and two notches below the desired grade by Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's.

Consunji unit to expand Batangas power plant capacity

By Amy R. Borres

SEM-CALACA POWER Corp. of the Consunji-led Semirara Mining Corp. will begin expanding its Batangas coal-fired power plant's capacity to 1,200 megawatts from the current 600 MW this year.

Nestor Padilla, director at SEM-Calaca and concurrent president of DMCI Power Corp., confirmed that the company would soon break ground within the year.

Dealbreak told reporters that the groundbreaking would be for the first phase of the expansion project, covering the construction of two additional units that would each have a capacity of 150 MW, or a total of 300 MW.

The first phase is expected to be completed by 2014.

The second phase for another 300-MW expansion is also being mulled over the medium term.

Dealbreak did not disclose the company's timetable for the second phase, as well as the total cost of the expansion project.

Last year, SEM-Calaca tapped a P9.6-billion debt facility to partially finance the acquisition of the 600-MW coal-fired facility in Calaca, Batangas.

Proceeds from the term loan were then used primarily to refinance loans and shareholders' advances extended to SEM-Calaca for down payment of the power plant's 40-percent acquisition cost and prepayments made to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM).

A portion was also used to finance SEM-Calaca's permanent working capital requirements.

Parent firm DMCI Holdings, which owned 55 percent of Semirara, won the bidding for the facility in July 2009 with a price offer of $161.7 million.

DMCI Holdings and Semirara then formed SEM-Calaca to specifically handle the coal facility as well as to acquire, expand and maintain power generating plants, develop fuel for generation of electricity, and sell electricity to any person or entity through electricity markets.

In December 2009, SEM-Calaca had paid PSALM $138.8 million, representing a 40-percent down payment for the coal power plant. The deal allowed the company to assume ownership of the facility.

The company's initial investment for the Batangas coal facility were earlier expected to reach $402.6 million, which included the acquisition cost of $161.7 million. The remaining $125.89 million had been allocated for the rehabilitation and working capital requirements of the power plant.

Further investments to the Calaca power plant are expected, given the expansion project that will double the power facility's capacity over the medium term.

BUSINESS Monday
Business Features Editor Margie Quiroga-Espina

Investing in a second home

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Perazzo
Contributor

THE CLUBHOUSE appears to be the fruit of a million dreams, what with serene and beautiful mountain scenery overlooking the sea. In fact, slogan Respira Relaxquer and Cojo Abrazo! (Some Chat versus for Rest) read thing.

Developed by Landco, "The Peak at Terrazas de Punta Fuego" is an intimate 11-hectare development and is one of the highest elevations in the area, at the same time, amidst the stunning views in bay.

The village is located in Batangas and it is easy to imagine the place as a vacation home for the those who have more than enough, rather than a primary home for the average Pinoy. It is also a possible choice for an investor looking to buy a second home in the Philippines.

The decision to buy another house for personal use and may include all sorts of reasons, not necessarily logical. However, for those who are looking at real property as potential investments, there also comes a need to quantify the decision.

Reversal in the US

In certain parts of the United States, there has been a reversal of property values that has completely altered lifestyles and investing habits. A few decades back, Americans could count on rising property values as a tool for getting richer or at least, a nest egg for their retirement. There was also the previous trend of purchasing vacation homes because many Americans could easily sell property at attractive prices and move on to the next new home.

Nowadays, the apparent trend is towards building small or luxury, sometimes just the size of one room. Since the mortgage rates, many have had a hard time keeping up with mortgage payments, so they downsize instead.

A lot of luxury vacation homes are also available for sale in the market. For a certain income bracket, however, it is also an opportune time to purchase a second home given the low market values. The same is true in the Philippines.

Good time to buy?

MoneySense Editor Heinz Rubio explains, "A good time to buy a second home is when its tenant rates are low, like this year. This will allow you to lock in a low, fixed rate for a 25-year mortgage. This kind of rare environment exists during relatively stable economic periods, which also affect the infrastructure of the real estate market.

So if the economy is doing well, like these days, it's a good time to buy a second home, especially a new one. You don't want to buy when there's an economic crisis with spiraling interest rates and real estate projects getting stalled."

When asked how to ascertain if buying a second home is a real investment or not, Rubio replies, "Consider a second home an investment only when you plan to make money off it, either by renting it out or selling it after several years when its market value appreciates. Otherwise, even though it's an asset that increases your net worth, unless it's converted into cash one way or another, it's just a "non-earning" asset."

Investing in a second home is not only calculated by numbers but is also based on a person's mood and lifestyle. Nevertheless, it is sometimes hard to say when the real needs end or if the investments pay off in the future. The growing trend towards simpler living has led to reevaluation as a matter of real estate choices, one that has long-term consequences.

Differing scenarios can be confusing but the bottom line translates to weighing your decisions with utmost care.

Marie Cancio, who comes from a family of architects, suggests that you buy the second home you really want as soon as you can so that in case you need to sell, it will be marketable. She adds, "Don't just buy and make your money sleep. A house is a habitat, not an asset."

THE 12-HECTARE estate has a view of the mountains overlooking the sea.

A POOL with a view is what the Peak at Terrazas de Punta Fuego has to offer.

AN INTIMATE NOOK at Terrazas in Nasugbu, Batangas.

UNIONBANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS AND CASH DIVIDEND RECORD-DATE SETTING & PAYMENT DATE

TO: ALL STOCKHOLDERS

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of UnionBank of the Philippines will be held at the **Garden Ballroom of the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, 1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City** on Friday, **May 12, 2017** at **2:00 p.m.**

The Agenda for the said meeting will be as follows:

I. Calling the Roll
II. Proof of Notice of Meeting
III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 20, 2016
IV. Chairman/CEO's Report to Stockholders - Mr. Jesus A. Ortiz
V. Annual Report of Management on Operations for 2016 - President & CEO Victor K. Valdepeñas
VI. Ratification of Past Actions of Management
VII. Ratification of the Declaration of Cash Dividend of P2.00 per share
VIII. Ratification/Confirmation of Appointment of External Auditor (Punongbayan & Araullo) by the Board of Directors
IX. For Approval: Increase of Directors Per Diems for Attendance in Meetings
X. Election of Directors for 2017 - 2022 term
XI. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record as of April 28, 2017 will be entitled to attend and participate at the above meeting.

Please be advised also that RECORD DATE for entitlement to the cash dividend declared by the Board of Directors of UnionBank on January 26, 2017 equivalent to PESOS: TWO AND FIFTY CENTAVOS (P2.50) per share or a total equivalent of P1,810,016,692.50 was on **08 April 2017** while PAYMENT DATE shall be on **08 May 2017**.

For your information and guidance.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ATTY. IVY B. MACALING
Corporate Secretary

Suspending VAT on petroleum

MAPPING THE FUTURE
Anthony Alden S. Aguilar

PRESIDENT AQUINO, in his inauguration speech, said with conviction, "Kaya ang buo ko. Aayo! Hindi masaya hindi ako makiyag sa mga sasa mayo ('You are my boss, and I must obey your orders')."

Poor Juan dela Cruz, who happens to be the boss, is now in a quandary while watching the seemingly endless increases in oil price. What can the boss do now? Should the boss require the President to suspend the Value-Added Tax (VAT) on petroleum?

VAT is an indirect tax and the amount of tax may be shifted or passed on to the buyer, transferee or lessee of goods, properties or services. By law, therefore, the VAT is automatically added to the value of goods, services, exchanges. Thus, the final consumers bear the burden of paying the VAT.

Final consumers include all Filipinos, whether rich or poor. However, the difference for us the recipient of the added tax burden to them. To the rich, the amount is immaterial, but to the common people, the amount may be enough to buy other necessities which they can eat a day to day basis.

Enjoy the liberty of VAT may go a long way to an ordinary Filipino.

Dubbed one of the most dangerous places to be a bus driver in the world, the Philippines serves as home of drivers who receive less and these, while commuters cross the streets at their own convenience. The problems of our transportation system, like so many other problems, have been left unsolved. For now, just like in previous years, these problems will have to be set aside because of the more pressing problem of oil price hike.

Out of a driver's income, a portion goes to the amount of vehicles for what they call boundary, a portion goes to petroleum expenses which is over and above the boundary, a portion is for VAT on petroleum, and the rest goes to the driver's family.

Two alternatives have surfaced in the light of the recent round of oil increases and the implementation of the Republic Program of which, by the way, has been criticized for its inefficiency to address the problem and for failing to serve the Filipinos and farmers, and other sectors who are using petroleum in their operations, not to mention the working class who pay VAT on oil directly or indirectly.

The first option is to completely freeze the petroleum VAT by Congress, and the second is to temporarily suspend VAT on petroleum, entirely. Either way, there will be administrative implications. The influence must be re-

Anthony Alden S. Aguilar is a Senior Associate at Isla Lipana & Co., the Philippine member firm of the PwC network. He is also a Lecturer at the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Information Systems Auditor. He is also a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Management Consultant. Feedback at mapping@islalipana.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph/

programmed and IRR processes must be followed.

The government, together with some economists, argues that the suspension of VAT will mean loss of income needed to support vital projects. However, it has been reported that an estimated P4.5 billion (and increasing) in windfall was gained by the government on the oil price increases. Add this amount to the Personnel Program budget and we may be able to fund the loss of income which the suspension of VAT will mean.

For years, drivers of both the private and public utilities, including the operators have paid the VAT and maybe just this once, government should allow them to rest, even for a while, and make their money work for them.

It cannot be denied that the government has generated revenue from VAT on petroleum for the longest time. It is also apparent that government is willing to do something to address the problem. What we can only do is to choose the best option. Juan dela Cruz must be able to enjoy the benefits of the taxes they paid. To me, the suspension of VAT is a solid, fair and just alternative. The beneficiaries will directly receive the help given by the government without any intervention.

Whatever alternative will be chosen, the choice must be made in the earliest possible time. Lowering or suspending the VAT on petroleum will require the nod of Congress and of course the President. Processes must be started for Juan dela Cruz to be able to exercise his natural predisposition. However, the situation should not be used to discredit the President. In this situation, every sector loses something. What we are looking for is an alternative which will lessen the loss for us, the stakeholders, the bosses. Proper consideration is a must.

The article reflects the personal opinion of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is a Tax Partner of Isla Lipana, Alonzo, Aguilar & Asociates, CPAs, Tax and Management Consultants. Feedback at mapping@islalipana.com.ph. For previous articles, please visit map.org.ph/

BUSINESS

Swedish ship parts firm expands Subic facility

Polarmarine cites port's location, pool of workers

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A ship parts manufacturer based in Europe is expanding its production facilities here to carve out a share in the huge shipbuilding industry in Asia.

Carolina Apao, administration and financial manager of Polarmarine Inc., said her company would eventually transfer production facilities in Sweden and Russia to this freeport because of its "strategic location and the [available pool] of English-speaking workers here."

Polarmarine, a Swedish firm that started operations here in 1996, is among the giniest locators in the Subic Bay Freeport.

It has 89 workers, most of whom used to work in the Subic Naval Base until who were retained by the US Navy, Apao said.

"With this expansion plan, we aim to lessen the cost of our products since we will be saving more from freight costs. We will import from our suppliers in Asia, and export products to customers in Asia," Apao said.

She said shipbuilding-related industries are "now being concentrated in this Asian region, and more shipbuilding component assembly operations are now being transferred to Asia."

Polarmarine started this month to coordinate with the India-based Korean shipbuilder, Hanjin Heavy Industries Corp., Philippines, for an arrangement to supply semi-booms, she said.

Initially, Polarmarine produced "Pilot Jet," a programmable multisonic tank cleaning equipment designed to clean difficult to reach parts of ship tanks, using tanks and underwater platforms in conventional cleaners.

Polarmarine later ventured into assembly of semi-booms used in shipyards, for which it acquired a 484-square-meter building here for its assembly facility.

"This is in preparation for our plan to transfer production from Malmo, Sweden, to Subic," Apao said.

She said the company sees a 20-percent increase in production and employment in its first year of full operations here and an additional 50 percent in succeeding years.

Mineral output grows in Q1

By Riza T. Olchondra

PRIMARY PRODUCTION of gold, silver, and nickel concentrates have been reporting high prices and improved production in the first quarter, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

Copper production, meanwhile, appeared to be on a downward up trend with March, while output has been erratic for zinc and chromite.

According to MGB statistics, gold production started out at 1,735 kilograms for January 2011, valued at more than P5.74 billion. This improved to 3,513 kilograms in February valued at P6.06 billion, and 6,400 kilograms for the first two weeks of March, valued at P8.24 billion.

Silver output reached 4,758 kilograms valued at P57.22 million in January; about 3,402 kilograms in February valued at P157.7 million; and 3,247 kilograms at 151.26 million in the first two weeks of March.

Copper production reached 23,831 dry metric tons (dmt) of concentrates in January, valued at P3.57 billion; about 38,684 dmt in February valued at P5.44 billion; and 18,711 dmt in the first two weeks of March, valued at more than P4.9 million.

Nickel concentrate production reached 2,470 dmt in January, valued at P930.94 million; about 3,223 dmt in February for a value of P909.7 million; and 3,913 in the first two weeks of March, valued at more than P1.41 billion.

All nickel concentrate production last year came from the first and so far only lateritic metallurgical processing plant in the country, which operates under Coral Bay Nickel Corp.

ATI earmarks additional cash for investments

By Dexter L. Lucas

DOMESTIC PORT operator Asian Terminals Inc. may boost investments for as much as 50 percent of its current budget should additional seaports be made available by the government for private investors.

In a briefing, ATI president Eusebio Tanco said the publicly listed firm had P1 billion kept in reserve that it could tap should any investment opportunity to open up.

In particular, company officials said they were interested in the government's public private partnership scheme, especially those that involved the leasing out of domestic ports to private operators.

"We aren't driven into monsoon (operations)," Tanco said. "We're very focused on our core business."

The additional cash for investments would be on top of the P1.9 billion in capital expenditures that the publicly listed firm had allocated for this year.

The bulk of this would be used for the improvement of ATI's flagship facility, the South Harbor International container Terminal, officials said.

"We have gotten a big investment program in South Harbor," said executive vice president Enno Schuler. "We just acquired last year two new cranes, and they are being commissioned at the moment. And there is a lot of infrastructure (facilities being constructed)."

The company is also implementing additional improvements in its operations, the fleet of Batangas wharfs, together with the Port of Guimaras wharf, formed part of ATI's portfolio of port facilities.

At the same time, company officials expressed optimism about the prospects of the domestic port operations market on both the passenger and cargo sides, given the resurgent Philippine economy aided by renewed optimism among both investors and consumers.

According to Schuler, the country's high population growth also bodes well for ATI since this will translate to higher passenger and cargo traffic over the long term.

Historically, the domestic ports business grows by 6 to 7 percent yearly, but this could pick up to a range of 7 to 8 percent per year, he said.

ATI reopens the bulk of gensets to come from the Luzon and Mindanao markets, while expansion in the Visayas will likely be felt strongest in the Port of Cebu.

Tanco said the number of passengers traveling by sea had started to see a slower affect several years of declines brought about by the entry of budget airlines into the market.

Phoenix aims to raise ₱5B via notes issue

PHOENIX PETROLEUM Philippines Inc. targets to raise as much as P5 billion through the issuance of corporate notes.

It intends to use the amount to refinance maturing debts and fund projects.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Phoenix Petroleum said its board of directors had approved the issuance of P5 billion to P5 billion worth of notes, which will mature in five and seven years.

The oil firm appointed BPI Capital Corp., The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp., Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines as joint lead managers for the transaction.

Citiseconds (Philippines) Commercial Bank Corp. will serve as co-lead manager.

"The notes will be sold via private placement to no more than 19 qualified buyers," it added.

Phoenix Petroleum had earmarked P3.5 billion for its 2011 capital expenditure program, hoping to expand its fuel supply operations and retail network across the country. It also hopes to finance the expansion of its depot facilities.

The P3.5 billion allocated for this year was much higher than the P1 billion that Phoenix had programmed for 2010.

In the first quarter of 2011, Phoenix posted a 133-percent surge in sales to P6.1 billion, compared to the P2.71 billion it recorded in the same period last year. Sales volume almost doubled year-on-year.

As of end-March 2011, Phoenix Petroleum has 176 stations operating nationwide, from 164 gas stations as of end-2010. Of the 176 stations, 151 are in Mindanao and the Visayas, and 37 in Luzon.

Based on its first quarter performance, the company said if more stores are done it would be in target of putting up 40 additional stations before the end of the year. — Amy R. Remo

After pioneering 2G and 3G technologies in the Philippines

Globe showcases speed and reliability of 4G mobile technology

Globe Telecom conducted a live speed test demonstration of its 4G mobile technology using the single standard HSPA+ or Evolved High-Speed Packet Access as its value added service. The company claims that it is the first to offer 4G mobile broadband service in the country.

The demonstration was conducted at Globe's headquarters in Taguig City.

Globe Telecom announced that the technology is already available in 10 sites in Metro Manila, covering Makati, Quezon City, Mabini, Pasay, Las Piñas, Taguig and the City of Manila.

During the test demo, a Globe 4G HSPA+-powered broadband dongle was connected to a laptop and by using two other dongles – a tablet and a Samsung Galaxy S2 – a Globe Super Data SIM Card in two competitive brands, in this speed test, the broadband data running on 4G HSPA+ clearly bit competitors after registering a download speed of 6.72Mbps and an upload speed of 1.02Mbps. In 3G and 3G-powered devices also showed better and improved performance in download and upload speeds after running over the same location, but not matching the 4G speed. This showed speed and reliability of 4G HSPA+ service simultaneous broadband data sharing between their respective devices.

Globe Portfolio Management Head Jolina Arriola also showcased the various functionalities of Samsung Galaxy S2, the latest 4G-capable device which Globe subscribers will be able to subscribe to in the next few weeks to allow them to fully enjoy the 4G experience on their handsets. With the device, subscribers are treated to better and more stable data connections that will ensure high speed web browsing and faster video streaming and downloads.

The increasing data usage is driving the need for more capacity. Services are connected to providing quality services to our subscribers, we have proactively responded to the call by deploying new technologies that will upgrade and enhance their experience with us," said Peter Lathrop, Senior Advisor for Consumer Business of Globe Telecom. "The announcement of our 4G network technology is testimony to this commitment of bringing the most up to date technologies and services to our customers."

Now commercialized as a mainstream service, 4G HSPA+ is the most efficient 4G technology available in the market today. Current subscribers using 3G-enabled mobile phones and broadband dongles are already benefiting from the initial rollout with improved call and data experience. Subscribers based in the current HSPA+ enabled sites are also able to access the real 4G technology with new 4G enabled devices and applications coming very soon into the Globe.

SMC planning to buy more coal mines

By Amy R. Remo

SAN MIGUEL CORP. plans to acquire more coal mines in the coming months as it awaits developments in the negotiations for its acquisition of Indonesia's coal mines.

Ang Mga Kaibigan ni San Miguel president Ramon S. Ang, the company is pushing through with its plans in Indonesia, as the potential coal sites in that country were said to contain up to 500 million tons in resources per area.

"In the meantime, Ang said San Miguel would join the government bidding for coal mines under the Philippine Energy Contracting Round (PECR).

The Department of Energy said it will formally bid out at least three coal fields to explore and develop coal areas in Negros, Cebu, Iloilo, Surigao del Sur, and Samar, Zamboanga del Norte.

Acquiring new coal areas would help San Miguel build its planned 5,000-megawatt power portfolio within the next six years.

Ang said the company was currently in begin this year the construction of some of its proposed coal-fired facilities in Mindanao.

In particular, Ang explained, the company would already start studying the logistics and infrastructure requirements for these coal facilities.

Ang said the company planned to initially put up a 300-MW coal-fired power plant in General Santos City following the acquisition of a coal mine in the province. A 300-MW coal facility would need about 750,000 tons of coal a year.

Although he did not reveal San Miguel's planned investment in the facility, Ang said the conglomerate would invest as much as $1 million to produce one megawatt of power from coal resources. This means that for the initial 300-MW project, San Miguel would possibly invest some $300 million or roughly P13.2 billion.

San Miguel acquired last year three coal mines in South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat with resources capable of generating an initial 1,200 MW. These were previously owned by Baguio Agro Minerals Inc., Bonanza Energy Resources Inc. and Sultan Energy Mining and Development Corp.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
CITY SCHOOLS DIVISION OF TACURONG
City of Tacurong

INVITATION TO BID

Construction of School Buildings in Need
Implementing Agency (Annotated Budget) (CY 2011-2017)

1. The Tacurong City Schools Division of Tacurong through General Appropriations Act (GAA) intends to apply the sum of Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php 600,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to complete the Construction of School Buildings in Need Implementing Agency (Annotated Budget) (CY 2011-2017) and is receiving sealed bids for the construction of the ABC and the indicated the sealed shall opening.
2. Republic of the Philippines Department of Education, Region III, Tacurong City Schools Division of Tacurong, Construction of School Buildings in Need Implementing Agency (Annotated Budget) (CY 2011-2017) now invites bids for the construction of the ABC and the indicated the sealed shall opening.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Bids and Awards Committee and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during working days.

The BAC Secretariat
Bids and Awards Committee
Tacurong City
Tel. Nos. (064) 200-5555 loc. 109
Telefax No. (064) 200-5577

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00)
7. The Lapu Metropolitan Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the LMWD Lapu Pinamalis Branch San Roque St., Barangay 3 to which all bidders are invited to attend.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (Philippine Standard Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on June 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. Lot of Bidder reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
11. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. Rodolfo A. Mendoza
BAC-Chairman
Lapu-Lapu Metropolitan Water District
A. Mabini St., Poblacion City
(032) 340-1677
Email address: lapulapuwater@yahoo.com

Engr. RODOLFO A. MENDOZA
BAC Chairman

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
LEYTE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
A. Mabini St., Poblacion City
Tel. 321-4312 / Fax 321-4311

Invitation to Bid
For Rfx CW-11-02
Water Supply Expansion Project of the Leyte
Metropolitan Water District

1. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District through the Loan Proceeds from the Land Bank of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of Six Hundred Million Pesos (Php 600,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to complete the Water Supply Expansion Project for Leyte Metropolitan Water District (WSEP) and is receiving sealed bids for the construction of the ABC and the indicated the sealed shall opening.
2. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District now invites bids for copying of 10 unit sets of Civil Works for the construction expansion including fittings and appurtenances such as all reasonable related works, clean-up of surroundings and all incidental and collateral works for construction of Wells and 2 (M) pipe connection and all 20 major river crossings and interconnection works. Completion of the Works is required within three hundred sixty five (365) calendar days upon receipt of the notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within two (2) years from the date of submission and receipt of Bids, a contract similar to the Project equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Leyte Metropolitan Water District and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. during working days.

The BAC Secretariat
Leyte Metropolitan Water District
A. Mabini St., Poblacion City
Tel. Nos. (053) 321-4312 / 321-4311
Telefax No. (053) 321-4311

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the amount of Forty Thousand Pesos (PHP 40,000.00)
7. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the LMWD Lapu Pinamalis Branch San Roque St., Barangay 3 to which all bidders are invited to attend.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before June 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (Philippine Standard Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on June 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. The Leyte Metropolitan Water District reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
11. For further information, please refer to:

Rodolfo A. Mendoza
BAC-Chairman
Leyte Metropolitan Water District
A. Mabini St., Poblacion City
(053) 321-4312
Email address: lapulapuwater@yahoo.com

Engr. RODOLFO A. MENDOZA
BAC Chairman

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

INVITATION TO RE-BID

LOT	NAME OF SCHOOL	LOCATION	SCOPE OF WORK	ABC (₱) AMOUNT
1	Buanoy(Bo. Rizal) Elementary School	Brgy. Buanoy, Balamban, Cebu	2 storey-6 classroom (1 SPED Cl.)	3,776,000.00
2	Kabangkalan Elementary School	Brgy. Kabangkalan, Tabuelan, Cebu	2 storey-6 classroom (1 SPED Cl.)	3,776,000.00
3	Mount Kanlaon Elementary School	Brgy. Mount Kanlaon, Tabuelan, Cebu	2 storey-6 classroom (1 SPED Cl.)	3,776,000.00
4	Tabunoc Elementary School	Brgy. Tabunoc, Tabuelan, Cebu	2 storey-6 classroom (1 SPED Cl.)	3,776,000.00
5	San Miguel Elementary School	Brgy. San Miguel, Tabuelan	1 storey-2 classroom	868,000.00
6	Mt. Tabunoc(Bo. Dalid) Elementary School	Brgy. Lawaan(Bo. Dalid), Tabuelan	1 storey-2 classroom	868,000.00
7	Lawaan Proper Elementary School	Brgy. Lawaan, Tabuelan, Cebu	1 storey-2 classroom	868,000.00
8	Mt. Manunggal(Bo. Manunggal) Elementary School	Brgy. Mt. Manunggal, Tabuelan, Cebu	1 storey-2 classroom	868,000.00
9	Mt. Tabunoc(Bo. Dalid) Elementary School	Brgy. Mt. Tabunoc, Tabuelan, Cebu	1 storey-2 classroom	868,000.00
			TOTAL	17,748,000.00

1. The Supply and Delivery Unit of the Province of Cebu, through the Bids and Awards Committee, invites bids for the above-mentioned projects.
2. Bidding is open to all interested contractors, suppliers and manufacturers duly licensed by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of the Province of Cebu.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours.

The BAC Secretariat
Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial Capitol Building
Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 255-5555 loc. 2274
Telefax No. (032) 255-5555

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents pursuant to the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (PHP 5,000.00) for each project lot.
7. The Province of Cebu will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Provincial Capitol Building, Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City to which all bidders are invited to attend.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. (Philippine Standard Time). All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
9. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on May 24, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. Late bids shall not be accepted.
10. The Provincial Government of Cebu reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
11. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ROMULO R. TORRES
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat

Date of Publication: May 2, 2011

LIBRE MAY TRABAHO DITO

You can now checkout more jobs in INQUIRER Libre

For advertisers, inquire about the Job Market package at 897-8000 loc. 514

JOB Market

hire now www.jobmarketonline.com

LRT-MRT bidding moved to July

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE CONTRACT to operate two of Metro Manila's main commuter lines will likely be put on the auction block in July with the government now winnowing down the list of groups that will be allowed to bid.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Jose de Jesus said Wednesday said local companies had expressed interest in bidding for the P64-billion contract.

The department, he said, wanted to trim down this list to exclude companies that were not likely to qualify in terms of financial strength and technical abilities.

Companies having similar shareholders with other potential bidders will also be barred from joining the auction.

De Jesus earlier said the government wanted the bidding process to start by June this year, but the target had been pushed back by a month to give the LRTC enough time to prepare.

He said the department had been taking time to survey potential bidders so that companies that were not likely to qualify would no longer have to pay P500,000 to buy the bid documents.

The combined operations and maintenance contract for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) line 1 and Metro Rail Transit (MRT) is a project initiated by President Aquino's public-private partnership (PPP) scheme.

The PPP program is meant to attract the private sector to invest in projects that the government cannot afford or is not competent enough to do so its own.

The winning bidder is scheduled to take over the LRT-MRT operations at the start of 2012.

The operations contract will be separate from the deal to expand the capacity and improve the facilities of the MRT and LRT-1 lines.

Both train lines have been hit with several technical malfunctions since the start of the year due to overloading for the MRT and to wear and tear because of age for LRT-1.

LRT-1 runs from Baclaran, Pasay to Roosevelt, Quezon City while the MRT spans from Taft Avenue to North Avenue along EDSA in the San Juanico Avenue.

Lucky guide

THERE IS more dirt in fertilizer.

Seriously, we all heard of the P728-million fertilizer scam, featuring former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, which exploded in 2004 but surfaced again recently, perhaps in connection with the fight between the regime that El administration and the resigned Department of Budget Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr.

But hardly anybody heard of another fertilizer deal, involving a not too paltry sum of P420 million, which even predated the Joy-Joc affair by about a year.

It now seems that, in the cross-administration of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Erap, fertilizer was really a business in dirt.

Immediately in the GMA, the Commission on Audit, in its audit report for the name of Florida Antonio, in early 2004 or before the Joc-Joc affair, questioned—officially—the P420 million fertilizer purchase of the NFA, the National Food Authority.

The NFA bought the fertilizer for the Department of Agriculture, which supplied to distributors it in batches for the May-October cropping season in 2003.

The Audit Assistant wrote the NFA, then headed by Rep. Arthur Yap (Bohol), who was a long-time agriculture secretary in the Corazon administration, pointing out some shocking facts in the NFA purchase.

For one, fertilizer from Philphos almost screamed the entire order, mainly because Philphos was the lone bidder (and eventual winner) for all the contracts in the region in the province, except for a couple of them.

The NFA claimed that it had to enter into a negotiated contract, instead of the required public bidding, because the Oil needed the supply immediately.

But then again, the Palace approved the purchase in March 2003. The NFA awarded the contracts to Philphos more than three months later. This told the COA audit that the NFA did not really seem to be in a hurry to buy the fertilizer as it wanted to for three months.

And as it was possible that the fertilizer never reached the farmers, because the NFA awarded the supply contract way after the start of the planting season. Question: Where did the fertilizer go?

Interestingly enough, years, aside from the then NFA administrator Yap, were the then Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Undersecretary Gregorio Tan (who is said to be an old hand in the NFA, having been there under four administrations).

Remember newer Pyongyang than I remember, because of his "familiarity" with the NFA. The mentioned and guided Yap in the NFA's massive rice importation—breaking all records in volume and pricing.

There is the best part. Yes, the guide of Yap, years ago, is now the chief guide of Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala. Uncle get!

* * *

Two real estate companies in the project called "Sta. Elena City" in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, need to be sued, for to be sued—if not, the Sta. Elena name, wanted to use place on March 16.

The latter came from Prominent Realties Corp., director of Monteland Developments, and Southeastside Thermal Services, president CEO of Vista Land and Lifescapes.

Monteland is the company of the landed Quiros family, who own the land that Vista Land (Villar's company) is developing into a subdivision, located near the multi-awarded Sta. Elena Golf Club which was called by US-based publication Golf Digest as one of the 1000 best courses in the world outside the United States.

The letter said:

"We convey these facts to you to help clarify whatever misimpressions may might have had with regard to the ownership and use of the name 'Sta. Elena.'

"Hacienda Sta. Elena was originally one of the seven **sugar plantation that form** part of the agricultural development of the Candaguing dynasty of Isidro Arcadio Quiros (pictured) **from the name, Hacienda** Sta. Elena, was named after late Speaker Jose Yulo, the eldest daughter Maria Elena Yulo Quiros.

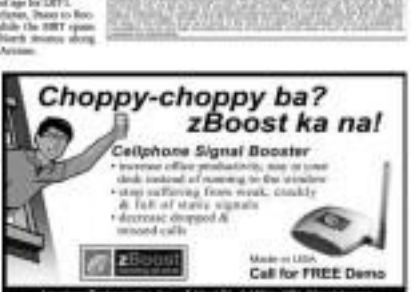
"In consequence of the **lame passed on to Maria Elena's children, it was deemed** timely, prior to the onset of agrarian reform, to move from agriculture to urban-related **land development.**

"The original land use was conceptualized by the Quiros children and drawn-up by the renowned urban planner, Pablo Palafox II.

"The components of this plan remain in place even after the passage of 25 years when the dreams of a new city were first actualized in paper. There were two components envisioned for the master/central: A university township, which will revive around the new University of Santo Tomas campus, and a golf course community, which will emerge from within the Sta. Elena Golf Club, a joint venture between Monteland and the Tantoco, Quiroz and Yulo-Arguelles families.

"The members and women boards were devoted to well-executed components of subdivisions and mixed-use development to joint ventures with the family of Sen. Jose Yulo. As a result of decades from 25 years of trust, friendship and successful partnership, the Quiros family, through holding firm Monteland, has committed the remainder of its landholdings in Hacienda Sta. Elena to further development under a joint venture with Vista Land, under the aegis of "Sta. Elena City." The town and direction of "Sta. Elena City" will be the existing growth corridor between Sta. Rosa and Tagaytay."

So there—the name "Sta. Elena" comes from the generals. It is just done only a few hours it, while every body I know has heard of "Sta. Elena," **the golf club.**



Eton posted 154% profit growth in '10

By Doris C. Dumlao

TYCOON LUCIO TAN-led Eton Properties Philippines Inc. reported a 154-percent jump in its net profit last year P712 million on strong revenues booked from residential sales and leasing income from leasing of commercial properties.

Total revenue grew by 126 percent year-on-year to P4.5 billion, which was attributed to strong residential sales, leasing income from business process outsourcing office and mall properties, and the completion of a number of projects.

The projects that were complete of last year, which boosted Eton's revenue, were the One Archers Place and Eton Seagrass Manila residential condominium.

"Eton will close strong sales levels in 2011 since we see very good opportunities for market expansion this year coupled with the scheduled turnover of our early residential projects", said Eton Philippines president and chief operating officer Imelda Ignacio.

Eton's assets rose by 11 percent last year to P12.2 billion.

This year, Eton expects to realize additional revenue from the delivery of more than 3,500 residential units by the end of the year. The company plans to focus on the development of its two township projects—Eton City in Sta Rosa, Laguna and Eton Centris in Quezon City.

Given the government's revenue target, Eton is also planning leisure developments in key cities in the country this year, this 2011.

"We are likewise excited with the upcoming launch of our first residential project in Iloilo City, our 11-hectare mixed-use township development at the corner of Iloilo and Quezon Avenue," Ignacio said.

"Iloilo City is the gateway to Quezon City's new Triangle Central Business District and our initial residential project there would be the first luxury residential project to rise in this new exciting CBD (central business district)", he added.

The first commercial project in Iloilo City dubbed Village Walk, has been launched and warmly received by the market, it said.

Construction of the second BPO office building in Iloilo City is also underway.

SMX CONVENTION CENTER
DISCOVER THE DIFFERENCE
Calendar of Events May - June 2011

MAY 2011

Philippine College of Physicians Annual Convention / May 1 - 4

Dalos Santos STI Graduation / May 6

Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists Annual Convention / May 7 - 8

Philippine Fashion Week - Bench Fashion Show / May 9

Philippine Fashion Week Holiday Collection 2011 / May 10 - 15

International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Philippines 2011 - CITEM / May 12 - 14

PRC Civil Engineering Oathtaking / May 17

Philippine Veteran's Bank Annual Stockholder's Meeting / May 20

Asia Pacific College Graduation / May 20

Celebrations! A Bridal Fair & Special Events Expo / May 21 - 22

John Caluk Training Inc. Money Magnet Seminar / May 21

University of the Philippines College of Medicine 102nd Commencement Exercises & Philippine General Hospital Internship Closing Ceremonies / May 22

Kenny Loggins Live in Manila / May 25

Informatics Graduation / May 25

Maroon 5 Live in Manila / May 25

Junior Chamber International Asia-Pacific Conference 2011 / May 26 - 29

Sound 3 Ring Relaying Event / May 26 - 28

Manila Philippines 100th Centennial Celebration / May 27

Great Love Sale 2011 / May 27 - 28

JUNE 2011

Semiconductors and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI) Annual Convention and Exhibition / June 1 - 3

AMWAY Philippines - VIP International Seminar / June 4

Metro South Cooperative - General Assembly / June 4

Proudly Gemic: 100 Years of La Salle / June 11

10th Graphic Expo / June 10 - 12

John Caluk Training Inc. Money Magnet Seminar / June 18

Sagunto Nuno Car Exchange & Autofest / June 10 - 19

www.smxconventioncenter.com

MEGATRADE HALL
Putting you at the Center
Calendar of Events May / June 2011

MAY 2011

SM Appliance Exhibit / April 30 - May 02

Del Mahn Commerce / May 1 - 5

Mega Royal Sports Fest / May 11 - 15

Before I Do Bridal Fair / May 14 - 15

Wedding and Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (WPPP) Photo Congress / May 28 - 30

JUNE 2011

Red Golden Bowl's Bloomist Sale / June 10 - 12

Philippine Star Job Fair / June 14 - 15

10th Phil. Toys, Hobbies and Collectibles Convention / June 10 - 12

www.megatrade.com.ph

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Web and Remote Connection for
Tax Returns Administration (BIR - TRA)
Quezon City

The Republic of the Philippines has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Program Supported by Tax Administration Reform (NPTAR) Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the following consultancy services:

REF. / TRA NO. / REFERENCE NO.	NAME OF JOB / KEY ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT DURATION
2011-001	Establishment of the Business Requirements Specifications (BRS)	Hiring of consultancy firm which will develop an application to be used by BIR users nationwide who are handling the taxpayer transactions	Six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2011-002	Web e-Data Warehouse / Audit Module	Engagement of the services of a firm which will act as technical audit consultant/advisor in enhancing the Web e-Audit capability of the Bureau by designing a methodology, the proper approach in the formulation and implementation of the effectiveness of control procedures in various areas, such as risk management, internal control and operations	Six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2011-003	Enhancement of the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS)	Hiring of consultancy firm which will develop a web-based application to manage the issuance of taxpayer accreditation, notice of liability to pay, as well as automate the monitoring of acts within the system except BIR e-Offices	Six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2011-004	Development of Lotteries Administration Application (LAA)	Hiring of consultancy firm to undertake the study for the reconciliation of collection reports from various BIR offices and improve the existing system of the Bureau to cope in relation to the establishment of Treasury	Six (6) months from receipt of Notice to Proceed (NTP)
2011-005	Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of the Enhanced Collection Module	Hiring of consultancy firm which will develop and install a software that will enhance the existing Collection Module, Audit and Data Collection system for the Bureau to monitor efficiency and effectiveness	sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

The Bureau of Internal Revenue now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing its services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate in joint ventures or sub-consultancy agreements.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, published in January 2006, and the Consultant Guidelines, which are available from the Bureau's Bids and Contracts Committee (BCC) at the address below and during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Interested consultants may obtain the complete TOR, qualifications requirements and further information at the address below during office hours from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Expressions of interest together with the completed qualifications documents must be submitted to the address below not later than 10 June 2011.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Atty. Jose Mario C. Buenaser
Chairman, Bids and Contracts Committee
BIR Web Site
Room 4, 4th Floor, National Office Building
BIR Compound, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines
Telephone No. (632) 981-7814
Facsimile No. (632) 981-7900
E-mail: bac.tra@bir.gov.ph; secretariat.tra@bir.gov.ph
Website: www.bir.gov.ph

Date: 02 MARCH to 04 MAY 2011

INVITATION TO BID

The APT Multi-Purpose Cooperative (APT-MPC) invites interested bidders to participate by way of sealed bids from bidding corporation or cash basis with minimum of the selling price payable within thirty (30) days:

Item No.	Description	Location	Min. Price Offer
1	Mandaue Manufacturing Lot with Single(Detach) Unit, TCT/OCT No.: TA - 219 sqm.	Lot 1980-D, Brgy. Basak, Pusok 6, Brgy(s), Lapu City, Mandaue	P 1,200,000.00
2	Raw Land Lot - 410 sqm.	Lot 1980 - Sto. Rosa Estate, Brgy. Basak, Lapulapu(Mandaue) Richmond Magpet)	P 240,000.00

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting 2 May 2011 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P 1,000.00 to the Marketing and Sales Branch, APT-MPC Building, 434 Quezon Ave., Cebu Agricultura, Q.C. All interested are accompanied by a bid deposit equivalent to 25% of minimum offer price.

A pre-bidding conference is scheduled on 12 May 2011 at 10:00 a.m., starting hall, at P-1000, 434 Quezon Ave., Cebu Agricultura, Q.C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives on 13 May 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the same venue.

For inquiries, please call the above or log at tel. no. (032) 412-0000 local 1000.

(Sgd.) Clifton Jaime B. Kamuthan (Dec.)
Chairman, Asset Bidding Committee

(TRA) - May 2-5, 2011

Have you ever considered a Businessman in the Spot Foreign Exchange market?

Here are the 4 big reasons why you should consider it:
1. you only need a laptop, Internet connection, proper reliability transaction software and proper internet training to get started.
2. you can trade anytime, anywhere, 24 hours a day, six days per week.
3. you can limit the risk to no more than 1% of your account balance on any single trade and you can control your profits.
4. and the most important factor, it's PROFITABLE! 100% control of you.

SIGN UP for a Free Forex Seminar!!!

Limited slots available, so reserve your seat now! 419-5167 during business hours or send email to contact@gftph.com

The seminar is entirely free, and we are located at the above mentioned address.
1. a valid government issued ID such as passport or driver's license.
2. have a current utility bill and bank statement (these matters are very important).
3. the minimum capital investment (these matters are very important).
4. have a brand new trading mind to overcoming mistakes and be your companion all the way!

Powered by: **CLASSIFIEDS** *The Philippine Marketplace Classifieds*

More Classified Ads

DepEd Tacurong	B14
Leyte Metropolitan Water Dist.	B14
Province of Cebu	B14
CWWA	B16

Advertise in INQUIRER Libro
MAY TRABAHO DITO! Inquire at 911 6808 loc. 101

Get more exposure for your ad.

ROLEX LOUIS VUITTON

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICES

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

LOCAL NOTICE

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

People, Events & Products

Dunkin Donuts continues to help save more lives

BUSY SCHEDULE, economic constraints, modern technology, these are just some of the reasons why some people these days tend to forget the simple things that really matter.

With the aim of bridging the gap by reminding people - particularly its employees - to slow down and do something for such as saving people's lives, Dunkin Donuts has recently conducted a bloodletting activity in celebration of its 50th year in the Philippines.

According to Dunkin Donuts people development and recruitment division director Imelda Hayda, the annual bloodletting is part of the company's corporate social responsibility. "This is one way of showing our desire to help others and to also remind our people that they can do something that would save the lives of others," he explained.

Aptly themed "Bagong Buhay, Dagdag ng Buhay," the event gathered hundreds of donors all over the country. Hayda added that the activity - which has been running for the past five years - is one of the major thrusts of the company. "We really want to help and we feel that we can do that by getting qualified blood donors especially among our employees and their family members or other relatives," he said.

This year, a total of 1,000 bloodletting was participated by its seven franchisees in Laguna, Tacloban, Iloilo, Dipolog and Dagupan City. Hayda said that through the activity, Dunkin Donuts hopes to provide steady supply of blood for the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). The country needs 2,000 units of daily blood requirements.

Meanwhile, Philippine National Red Cross governor and chairperson of the Red Cross Blood Program Bora Bosal expressed her gratitude to the company and its employees for helping sustain PNRC's blood bank. "We always happy when there's blood donation because we can help a lot of people," she said.

Bosal, who has spent 61 years doing acts of charity in PNRC, vowed to continue doing this for as long as there are people who are willing to help. "It gives me strength knowing that there are many people who are willing to give their blood for others," she added. She also lauded the cooperation of employees during the activity saying they are very supportive of the advocacy of people when it comes to donating blood. "The volunteers and donors continue to increase in number and I am glad that many people were realize that even pass will need blood in the future as it's a must that we have plenty stored," she said.

An employee, Angel Serrano - who has been participating in the bloodletting program of Dunkin Donuts since it started in 2005 - shared that the company activity paved the way for him to make helping others a form of advocacy. "When donating blood for the first time I've seen ups, then I've been a regular blood donor since then, not just for the company but to other opportunities as well," he said.

DUNKIN RECEIVES BDO CREDIT CARDS RECOGNITION

Cebu, last April 27, was recognized as one of The Best Installment Merchants in the Health and Beauty category by BDO Credit Card at Cebu on the 6th Ayala Malls. Dunkin clients enjoy installment payment benefits, including card payment plans, whenever they use their BDO credit cards in their nearest branch.

Shown are (from left): Joel B. Antonio, senior manager, BDO Credit Cards; Lee Santiago, Dunkin merchandising development; Jojo Mamar, Dunkin Ortigas Center branch manager; Ms. Mona Lou R. Lopez, assistant vice president, BDO Credit Cards and Rogelio A. Olaso, first vice president, BDO Credit Cards.

Product Files

Discovering yourself via chocolate

WHEN YOU think of chocolates within a personality, Delfi's luscious range of chocolates are sure fire winners. The fine and premium Delfi Bars, which come in Dairy Milk, Almond Cashew, Roasted and Nut variants, is considered definitely a hit nonetheless, some new chocolate joy anything different yet utterly sophisticated and exquisite. For the adult, as fans and with a gang for affairs, smooth-talking Delfi Chippies are the perfect complements. Made of whole California almonds and velvety covered in rich, luscious Dark Chocolate, this Delfi variety to go-go-go, cool and energetic. Delfi Chocolatier has two power variants: Choco Bliss and Monster Chocolat. Delfi Decadence Chocolate chunks offer for teenagers and young adults. The delectable Choco Sticks (Dark Mint, Dark and Orange) are for those who want a light but filling snack or as cool before-and-lunch chocolate indulgence. The Mission Chocolat, meanwhile (Dark and Milk

Chocolate), with its soft filling and creamy crunchiness, favors the indulgent, festive entertainers have cool go or give in, and also creates memories both inside and out. Delfi is a Chocolate-making company brand owned by Petra Foods Limited, one of the world's top cocoa ingredients manufacturers. Its local wholly-owned subsidiary Delfi Marketing Inc. is the one responsible for bringing to local citizens this rich and premium Delfi chocolate brand. So what are you waiting for? Be ahead and find out!

Prime office spaces at Pacific Centre

PACIFIC CENTRE, the newly-renovated nine-storey building at the heart of Ortigas's city offering is office commercial and leisure establishments has now opened its doors to interested companies in search of prime office space. With over 3,800 sqm of commercial space on the first three floors and over 5,000 sqm of office space on the upper floors, Pacific Centre can accommodate practically any size and type of business or enterprise. Easily accessible, highly secure, professionally managed. Just some of the few benefits inside Pacific Centre is the perfect choice when it comes to prime office space. Pacific Centre is developed by Pacific Land and Building Corp. For inquiries, please call 207-3168, 241-1011, 241-1140 or send an e-mail to central@pacific-centre.com.

Festival Supermall, Westgate Center via Skyway 2

WITH SKYWAY 2 now open at the way to Alabang, Festival Supermall and Westgate Center, two lifestyle hubs located in Filinvest Corporate City, Muntinlupa, are now only 15 minutes away from Makati. Skyway Alabang exits to Alabang-Zapote Road via a tunnel that opens up to Filinvest Corporate City (FCC). This makes Alabang's Festival Supermall and Westgate Center easily accessible from Makati. Festival Supermall is the biggest shopping, dining and entertainment experience they offer for the whole family. Westgate Center, Filinvest's lifestyle hub, is right next to the Skyway exit. This brings motorists nearer to Westgate's dining strip, lifestyle shops, and auto dealer as well as to SM, and Alabang Town Center. Festival Supermall, another premier development of FCC, has four anchor stores (Shoppers Supercenter, SaveMore, Robinsons Department Store, and Hardware and Handyman).

Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2011 search

THE GOOD NEWS is that The Year Philippines search is calling for nominations. It's open to all Filipino entrepreneurs. To be eligible, a nominee has to be a Filipino business owner or founder who is primarily responsible for the growth and future of the company. The nominee must still be active in business, which must have been in operation for at least two years. A complete nomination form, audited financial statements and other documents are required for a nomination to be considered for further judging. Nominations for an award categories for this year: Master Entrepreneur, Small Business Entrepreneur, Social Entrepreneur, Technology Entrepreneur and Woman Entrepreneur. From among these category winners will emerge the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2011, who will represent the country in the 2012 World Entrepreneur Of The Year awards in Monte Carlo, Monaco in June 2012. Nomination cards on May 31. For nomination forms and further information contact The Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines secretariat at 891-6355 local 1106 or e-mail at ace.inbox@sgv.com.

Bits & Clips

PCCI to host AKU, FCI Asia conference and show

THE PHILIPPINE Canine Club Inc. (PCCI), the country's purebred dog registration body most widely recognized internationally, has been chosen to host the 68th Land FCI Asia and the Pacific Section Conference as well as the FCI Asia and the Pacific Section Show to be held in the Philippines next year. A biennial event which serves as a forum on matters pertaining to purebred dog breeding, the prestigious event was first held in Japan in 1969 and is attended each year by leaders of various FCI member countries. For more information about the event and the organization, visit their website at www.pccionline.org.

43rd National Marketing Conference

DO YOU THINK SALARIES ARE difficult as decoding the world's unsolved mysteries. Because like conducting investigations, discovering the key to consumer trends and purchases is more than a keen eye and a wide variety of techniques to be able to crack it. Drive to that next promise, the Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) has taken hold steps as it is set to offer a Back-to-Basics Hotline inspired 43rd National Marketing Conference (NMC), dubbed as The Marketing Stories Exposed: Revealing Secrets to Revenue Success, slated on June 22 to 24 at the Grand Ballroom of Sofitel Philippine Plaza in Pasay City. For registration and other inquiries, please contact the PMA secretariat at telefax 521-1234 or 404-4888 and look for Lea Ligan, mail to her via e-mail at www.philippinemarketing.net/pmi or e-mail at presidente_2011@yahoo.com.

"We have not come into the world to be numbered, we have been created for a purpose, for great things, to love and be loved."

-Mother Teresa

Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Papal Awardee
Mother Teresa Awardee, Yuchengco Foundation and the Manila Jaycees
Lifetime Achievement Awardee, University of the Philippines Centennial
Gintong Ina Awardee
Outstanding Citizen of Quezon City
Farmer of the Year

Justice Leonor Ines Luciano

Peacefully returned to our Lord on April 28, 2011
at the age of 91

Beloved wife of **Arsenio Luciano** (†), devoted mother to children **Ging & Ed, Chichet & Nonoi, Amelia Judith** (†), **Sito & Marilyn**, and **Chon & EQ**, sister to **Enrique "Toto"**. Loving grandmother to **Elaine, Nikki, Carla, Tara, Maryanne, Andre, Jamal, Dina, Valerie, Paola, Eya, Chrissie Anne, Joanna, Lauren, Nikos, Erica, Ria, Jean**, and **Lia**, and doting great-grandmother to their children.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila. Mass of the Resurrection will be on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the National Sandigan Foundation, the Malove Youth Foundation, the Kaisahang Bahay Foundation, the Tanglaw Pangsambayanan Foundation, and the Foundation for Carmelite Scholarships would be appreciated.

"Unless a life is lived for others, it is not worthwhile."

-Mother Teresa

Justice Leonor Ines Luciano

Joined our Loving Creator on April 28, 2011, at the age of 91

Wife, mother, educator, jurist and legislator, internationally-recognized civic leader, social worker, writer and columnist, builder of homes for the juvenile delinquent, and advocate of the causes for women and children

- ***Congresswoman, Sectoral Representative for Women***
- ***Chairperson, Board of Governors of the Philippine National Red Cross***
- ***National President, Catholic Women's League of the Philippines***
- ***National President, National Council of Women***
- ***Justice of the Court of Appeals***
- ***Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Quezon City***
- ***Co-Founder, National Sandigan Foundation***
- ***Founder, Malove Youth Foundation***
- ***Founder, Tanglaw Pangsambayanan Foundation***
- ***Founder, Kaisahang Bahay Foundation***

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila. Mass of the Resurrection will be on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the National Sandigan Foundation, the Malove Youth Foundation, the Kaisahang Bahay Foundation, the Tanglaw Pangsambayanan Foundation, and the Foundation for Carmelite Scholarships would be appreciated.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (ID)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE COST DESIGN

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Adorada "Nena" Zaldivar Dichupa

who peacefully returned to her Creator on April 18, 2011

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all those who spent precious time with us, offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and donations, or in some other way expressed their love, concern, and support in our hour of bereavement.

"And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

Head office
[illegible]

G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
[illegible]

St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
[illegible]

5th Floor Bldg. B — GH Hegenah, Mandaluyong City
[illegible]

G/F Traveller's Life Bldg., 400 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita Manila
[illegible]

"Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever...."
- Psalm 23:6 -

Our Beloved

ARCH. PHILIP NG CHUA

(August 16, 1952 – April 27, 2011)

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord at the age of 60

He is survived by his wife, Maria Theresa Lim; children: Kristoffer Derrick, Sherry Rose and Alvin Jeffrey; mother, Ng Dy; brothers: Benito, Paulino, John, James and Joseph; sister, Dominga; sisters-in-law, Sio Bee, Elena, Cecille, Mely, Mayette and brother-in-law, Tony.

His cremated remains lie in state at Room 206 Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Agno St., Brgy. Tatalon, Q.C.

Interment will be on Friday, May 6, 2011 at 9:00 am.

Family, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed." - Joshua 23:14

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven."
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

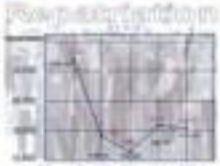
OWWA Celebrates 29 Years

OWWA: Handang Tumugon Sa Lahat ng Panahon

Message from
The Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Message from
The Administrator
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

Over the past years, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration has been of great service to millions of OFWs by providing them welfare programs and services. It vows to continue giving them and their families improved and timely assistance to help them build better lives.



OWWA SALUTES 5 MAGNA CUM LAUDE AND 22 CUM LAUDE SCHOLARS

Five Magna Cum Laudes and 22 Cum Laudes bid the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Scholarship Graduates for SY 2010-2011. The honor graduates who are dependents of OFWs will also be given recognition as part of the 29th anniversary of OWWA on May 2, 2011.

OWWA Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon reported this to Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz of the Department of Labor and Employment who congratulated the parent OFWs.

"As we commemorate the 29th year of OWWA with the theme **OWWA: Handang Tumugon sa Lahat ng Panahon**, our cream of the crop graduates among OWWA scholars are welcome achievements as we commit to promote the welfare and well-being of Overseas Filipino Workers and their families," said OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon.

The following are the five Magna Cum Laudes that led this year's honor graduates:

Ahmed Abdullah Khaniff from the Cotabato Autonomous Region is a graduate of BS Information Technology at Saint Louis University. His mother is a service crew at the Intercontinental Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Ahmed is nominated by ISU, Baguio City as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Students in the Country.

Doreen Adrianne Macanan, a graduate of BS Information Technology at Adamson University is the daughter of Elizabeth Macanan, who works as a household service worker in Hong Kong for 9 years.

Alexis Martinez, a graduate of BS Biology at the University of the Philippines Diliman is the son of a Maintenance Engineer in Singapore.

Ian Palermo, a graduate of BS Electrical Engineering in Agan Institute of Technology, Mindanao State University is the older of Mila Palermo, a factory worker in Taiwan.

Ma. Christina Rythesa Reyes, a graduate of BS Nursing at Aquinas de Zamboanga is the only daughter of Roberto Reyes who works as a seaman in an international crewship.

The OWWA scholars all owe their inspiration to the sacrifices of their parents abroad and the scholarship benefits that OWWA grants to qualified and deserving OFW dependents. "Before, my mother tries her best to save enough money so she can visit me. Now that I've graduated, I should be the one to visit her in Hong Kong through my own salary", said Lyssan Macanan, one of the Magna Cum Laudes, who recently gave the inspirational message to new scholars of the National Capital Region.

"Words are not enough to thank OWWA for the support it bestowed on the sons and daughters of OFWs for us to have a college degree. As I face the challenges in life as a working professional, the sacrifices of my parents and the help of OWWA will always be my inspiration to succeed" said Christine Reyes, a Magna Cum Laude of Aklan-de-Zamboanga.

These outstanding graduates are among the 93 OWWA scholars who graduated last April.

OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

DOLE Hotline 2-917 (press "3" for OWWA)
24/7 Operations Center 833-OWWA or 833-6992
SMS: (0917)TXT-OWWA or (0917)698-6992
Email: opcenter7@owwa.gov.ph/ owwa_opcenter@yahoo.com
Website: www.owwa.gov.ph
Facebook: OWWA Info

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

John Paul the Great, according to Federico Aguilar Alcuaz

Story on page C2

Mutya: Batang may Tibay, Batang may Laban!

ABS-CBN's newest teleserye, Mutya, has everyone hooked every weeknight. The adventures of a young mermaid have Filipinos glued to their screens to see what happens next to our young heroine. She and her friends go on a quest that will reunite her with her real parents to fight against the forces of evil.

At the center of this is our heroine Mutya, played by newcomer, Mutya Orquia. Playing a big role can be challenging, with the long hours and the many lines to memorize. At her side is her mother, who makes sure that Mutya has the strength and energy to portray her role to the fullest. To help make her child stronger and more resilient, Mrs. Orquia gives Mutya Bonakid Pre-School. It has Tibay Boosters, a combination of nutrients that help build the immunity, protection and physical growth of children. Now, Bonakid Pre-School has Lutein, a nutrient which helps shield developing eyes by serving as a filter against high-energy blue light.

Every night, Mutya teaches kids values such as kindness, respect for the elders, courage and friendship. It shows kids how to face challenges that will help build their character and make them stronger persons ready to take on any challenge. Through this unique partnership, Bonakid Pre-School comes in as Mutya's official 'pumpatibay', making Mutya a batang may tibay, batang may laban.

Bonakid Pre-School and Mutya have lots in store for the young viewers. There will be episodes that will highlight the values demonstrated by the characters in the show through the Bonakid Pre-School Value of the Day. Viewers will also get to see how Mutya spends her time between takes in Bonakid Pre-School's Behind-the-Scene segments. Bonakid Pre-School is also the official presenter of ABS-CBN's Bida Kapamilya Batang May Laban Caravan, which will be implemented in malls around the Metro.

Catch Mutya during weeknights on ABS-CBN so kids, together with their parents, can see inspiring stories that set good examples on children. Bonakid Pre-School with Tibay Boosters is available in leading groceries nationwide.

JOHN Paul II in Lagonoy inspired by Aguilar

PAPAL visage in a 1979 painting. Right: The Pope praying the Rosary inside Aguilar's Pavilion (Allhour) salon

John Paul the Great, according to Federico Aguilar Alcuaz

By Lito B. Zulueta

IN "PARALLEL Texts," the 2005 art book in which journal entries of Federico Aguilar y Alcuaz are excerpted, the late National Artist-elect writes about Paloma, a "bluish-black dove" that wandered into his Manila Pavilion salon-studio in 1980. Alighting at the window, the bird seemed to be inspecting the atelier and its stock after stock of paintings.

"I extended me of the Pope's visit and how a white dove came to my window," the artist writes in his journals, referring to the tumultuous visit of Pope John Paul II to Manila two years before. "It flourished of the Holy Spirit and passed On 1981). . . and I did a painting—ushering a series about the Pope."

The series consists of eight oil-on-canvas paintings. Three of them now belong to the Ishihara and Yuseng-Chua Collections, and the rest are missing, according to the family of the artist, who died last Feb. 2.

Missing is an unsung term. To be sure, the missing paintings are more in private collections. How they got there is the subject of intense speculation since, for all intents and purposes, the late artist, who was notorious for refusing to part with his paintings, would not have willingly sold them outright. It is widely believed he would have unwittingly given them up (or "sold" them) after a 2003 accident in which he suffered chronic cerebral hematoma that severely weakened not only his constitution but also his mental stillness and judgment.

Aguilar's series reportedly comes to mind as the world is still euphoric over the beatification over the life of the late Pope by his successor Pope Benedict XVI.

This author remembers seeing a few paintings by Aguilar in 1995, around the time of the second papal visit of John Paul II on the occasion of World Youth Day. It showed the Pope on a mounted boat and a multitude of tyrtles converging at his feet, as if paying him homage, and then in the act of blessing them. The painting is not part of the Chua collection.

Striking

Businessman Eddie Chua, who started collecting Aguilar works in 1994 and became a close friend of the artist, let the Inquirer in to his collection of the papal series, all of them untitled like paintings without titles).

The largest painting shows the Pope in a pose very familiar to Catholics and the rest of the world: both hands standing at the Giacometti-like crucifix that doubles as his bishop's staff, his head bent in an attitude of intense contemplation or perhaps prayer.

Dressed in white papal regalia, the slightly hunched figure is powerfully set off by the monochrome of background, so if he were about to come out of the canvas. But there's a flowing background—a faint horizon of green and a sliver of sky—that all in all evokes the universality of the papal figure.

A very striking painting is of the Pope right in Aguilar's native Bicol at the Pacific Ocean in Legazpi, Albay. John Paul II is shown standing, his right hand holding the crucifix-cum-bishop's staff, his left—those resting on other appears to be a large canvas by the artist, as his face is another painting. In his left hand, the Pope flings the waves.

At the Pope's left is the rainbow-dousing the familiar sacred view of Mount Mayon, which, At extreme left is a million souls, gathered in its plain, comprising the embryonic voice of Eastern.

The acoustic here is not alone the Pope floating majesty from his busy schedule and pressing concerns of the earthly realm; it is also in the way he seems to find support from the frame on which he leans.

Just propping up the Pope, giving him solace and providing him renewed strength? It's a hypothetic and exactly unlikely event: John Paul II was, as Harol Pongila, a performing artist, democratic and pure, an artist and a champion of the arts.

In 1995 on last, he breathed the early Renaissance Dominican Fra Angelico. (Of course, the friar artist has been called since his death by the Italians as "Beato Angelico." Someone who would call him a mere friar or brother before the Italians would risk a lynching.) Beato (or Blessed) Angelico is now patron saint of artists.

BUSINESSMAN Eddie Chua in his office before Federico Aguilar Alcuaz's portrait of Pope John Paul II

Beatification

Chua said Aguilar had told him of his vision of the Pope walking a trail in his suits. In fact, the artist had told him of his original inspiration of the papal series.

In early 1981, when the Philippines was anticipating John Paul's first visit, Aguilar, according to Chua, got a "yellow instruction" to the beatification ceremonies of Lorenzo Ruiz and Companion Martyrs. It would be the first beatification outside of Rome, and Aguilar was understandably excited.

Perhaps to accommodate the invitation and the occasion, he got the invitation card near the window of his suite, planning to paint it with the window view of Rizal Park, where the beatification would take place.

He apparently had planned to do it in the morning and seem to close. When he got up the next morning, he found a white dove (the same dove he refers to in his 1980 journal entries) on the window sill. It had wandered into the suite surveying its hoard of works painted across the years by the youngest known to his prodigiousness.

A devout Catholic, Aguilar took the white dove for the Holy Spirit and proceeded to paint the papal series, Chua said.

Aguilar also did paintings to memorialize the beatification

THE ARTIST's rendition of the 1981 beatification ceremonies in Rizal Park

The late National Artist-elect had painted a series of touching tributes to the new 'Beato'

NOWHA Chua: I'm about Canvas ... one of the seven paintings from Aguilar's series in Malolos.

One of them may be seen by the public at the ballroom of the Manila Pavilion.

At nearly four meters long, it is one of the biggest paintings by the artist. It's a striking nocturnal depiction of the beatification, with the silhouette of the cross and luminous rainbow (designed by Francisco Mañosa) limned by ceremonial light amid the sea of people and candles.

In Chua's collection, in fact, is another landscape depiction of the beatification, but set in the late afternoon. Here's a view of Roxas Boulevard and Manila Bay, apparently painted from the top of the Manila Hotel, the alternative vantage point (other than the Hilton's) taken by the artist. It's a bird's-and-light's eye view of the beatification ceremonies.

Enigmatic

The beatification landscape is one part of the papal series. The third and last painting of the series depicts Chua's legislative home the most enigmatic.

Combining both life painting and landscape, it shows the Pope sitting on a bridge or extended concrete bench, hunched over a little girl, they're holding hands and apparently talking. Behind the pair and she's going along with him, perhaps asking him for a saying. Behind them is a bucolic scene of coconut palms, mountain and sky. It's an Edenic scene that seems to have been transposed in the tropics.

Chua said the landscape was Legazpi's. He explained the artist had told him the painting was, like his paintings of the Pope in his suite, a beautiful fiction: It imagines the Pope in the particular surroundings of Legazpi and its famous beaches like the painting shows the Pope's feet upon a glassy, seemingly wet floor), with mystical Mount Mayon looming in the background.

The ledge or bench seems to situate the Pope to a park or pathways, one of the hot-spring resorts for which Legazpi is famous. One remembers how the late critic Rod. Flores-Perez's comment that, for all of Aguilar's training in avant-garde resolutions under Cirilo Bautista at University of the Philippines, Aguilar was "the epic troubadour of the urban landscape."

"Even when Alfredo is commissioned by a completely tonal scene, like a view of Tagaytay, he would aptly present a wide-angle view" Perez said, "then impasting the scene of grandeur evoked by the place, the beauty of life defining every facets, but also reserves balcony-railings as motifs of man's presence."

Papal close-ups

But the papal series was not the first paintings Aguilar had done of John Paul II. He had apparently been doing quick portraits of the Pope as early as 1979, Chua said.

In the collection are four of such portraits. Chua said Aguilar had told him they were studies for the Pope in various situations which he did while watching regular television broadcast of the Pope's activities in Rome.

Chua said Aguilar would allow him his TV set for hours and days. Some days Aguilar, an outspoken Aguilar had studies to Spain, Paris and the US, it was apparently his way of catching up with news and developments around the world.

Chua said he found the small papal portraits under the sofa in Aguilar's suite. It took some convincing and cajoling before Aguilar agreed to sell them.

Chua said his collection languidly owned in his late wife, Nenita. She had, in fact, spotted the portraits at Mañosa, where Aguilar also kept his stocks of paintings.

Chua, who's Buddhist, said Nenita was a devout Catholic with a good eye for art. When she stumbled upon the papal series, her religious devotion and aesthetic taste were perfect. She set out to convince Aguilar to sell her the series.

Apparently Aguilar, who was fond of Nenita, warmed to the idea. But the dynamics between the artist and the Chuas was that, although he would agree to selling this or that work, it would take some time for it to be delivered and the transaction finished. Chua explained the artist was nearly always reluctant to part with his works on the market.

Memory lapses

In the jacks of the series were only acquired over long stretches of time. The Chuas were able to acquire three of the big canvases.

Nenita died in 2001 and Aguilar had his accident the following year. It was then that five of the paintings in the series went missing.

Apparently, because of the artist's illness, Aguilar, who was living alone, suffered from memory lapses and other neurological problems that made him prey to opportunists who would exploit his knack at his suite and leave with his works.

Wilson Christian Aguilar, the artist's son, came to Manila from Germany in 2005 to take care of his father, he found many paintings gone. He has since established and conserved the artist's inventory. He's been stumped and reminders of the artist's estate.

Chua is happy he and his wife were able to stake a friendship with Aguilar despite his eccentricity. He's happy, too, that part of the papal series is now in his collection.

He said he and his wife had attended a Sunday Mass by the Pope in 2000, in which he reportedly first-hand the aura of sanctity that unconsciously surrounded the pontiff.

Chua remembers that Pope John Paul II was a very holy man," Chua said. "He deserves to be beatified."

But nothing beats the alleged papal experience of Aguilar, whom Chua called "very naughty."

"The Pope visited me," he would claim," the businessman said. "He would say the Pope was right there in his hotel room."

And judging by his papal series, Federico Aguilar y Alcuaz was telling the truth.

Visual Arts

Charlie Co at Duendia

Bacolod artist Charlie Co presents his latest paintings in "Dimension," at Galleria Duendia (2/F Luring Street, Pasay City; 833-0000; 833-0815; e-mail duendia@pldtdsl.net; or visit www.galleriaduendia.com) from May 7 - June 5. Dimensions are 11 large canvases and mix-and-match installations in various spiritual locations. Hushed and seemingly soulless, they enact melancholy scenes that are at once human and three-dimensionally familiar: detailed, lively, complex, sparse, and bland.

Cuna at LRI

Frank Cuna's colorful art works will be on view "Kaleidoscope World," opening on May 13 in LRI Design Plaza (2/F, 210 Alfonso Garcia St., Bel-Air, Makati; tel. 8903888). It runs until March 28.

Exhibits at West

Dominican Hills are on view in West Gallery until May 21 (48 Third Ave., Greenhills City; tel. 4116816, 4116817; www.west-gallery.com).

"Hi-Hello Like the Painter," from Mandaluyong homages on love, life, deception, and death.

"DEATH Sang for Virtual Worship," by Jason Montinola

Mr Chua demonstrates his and his viewer's enjoyment of paintings in "Digital Windows." The exhibit is about drawings, doodles and paintings, scanned, he says. Soiler's photographs can be viewed in "Flat." He scans, he lines; forms, shows, translates all kinds, leaves, trees, Mona Santos' "New Paintings" paintings show Cuna roses and shadows of the petal.

Pandy Aviado at Alliance Française

ALLIANCE Française de Manille's Total Gallery presents mixed printmaker and visual artist Virgilio "Pandy" Aviado's "Paint Portrait."

Gemma Cruz Araneta calls Aviado "another Filipino master... a multi-faceted artist who masters a wide range of styles, materials, techniques, moods, themes and forms."

Indeed, Aviado is a man of many talents. Aside from being a multi-awarded printmaker who has represented the Philippines at several biennales and other international exhibitions, he has also been a graphic arts teacher and administrator. He has served as president of the Philippine Association of Printmakers and the Art Association of the Philippines.

As a printmaker, Aviado has mastered numerous printmaking techniques, from woodcut to color etching. After training under pioneer printmaker Manuel Rodriguez, he pursued further studies in the medium at Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes in Madrid, and Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris.

In "Paint Portrait," Aviado seamlessly integrates the printmaking technique of process or etching/engraving with painting. In his exhibition note for the show, Carlosian Arcangel Encena writes:

"Perhaps what the master has gained (portrait of this exhibit) unlocks is that slit of time and surface of color. In their various metamorphosis formed surreal, half-ear satyr, images: skulls encircled with flames of petals; intestines of bodies (usually of women); winged eyes flapping across a pink sky; floating bodies dreaming of trees.

There are hands, scissors, automobile, pitcher plants, orchids, bees, phoenix, multi-colored lions. They are not involved with any scenario; they are still life, art objects, wooden statues. They have an capacity that is alarming. They want to be recontained into narrative."

"Visual Portrait" is curated by Albert Avisha of Modulus Art Gallery, and opens on May 3, at the Total Gallery of the Alliance Française de Manille, with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit runs until June 2.

"FOOT Fusion"

Alliance Française de Manille is at 209 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Pasong Tamo) Ext. Bel-Air 2, Makati City.

Gallery schedule: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and closed on Sundays and holidays.

"PARIS PUKI"

May is National Heritage Month

By Angelica Ramores
Contributor

IN THE run-up to Heritage Month this May, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) held on April 27-29 Dance Xchange: The 3rd Philippine International Dance Festival at St. Pedro Poveda College and Creative Plaza Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Dancers from over 11 countries came to the Philippines to show their own dance styles and techniques and, at the same time, learn from others through the workshops and performances. The festival had the theme "Cultural Connectivity through Dance."

Apart from May as "crucial months" for Philippine heritage, NCCA officials say the past two years, the last week of April has been dated for the international dance festival as an opportunity for local and international dancers to share and learn traditional and contemporary dances.

The festival was a good prelude to the National Heritage Month.

During a press conference for Dance Xchange, Jaime C. Laya, head of the NCCA National Committee on Monuments and Sites (NCMS), stressed the importance of "preserving the intangible heritage" of the Philippines. He expressed concern in dapitsons designs seemed to have been abandoned for modernity in Filipino structures.

"Buildings are now being remodelled beyond recognition," he said. "Heritage Month is an occasion to remind Filipinos to take care and be proud of our awareness ... We are supposed to know our past, our present. Philippine culture in general. Our culture provides inspiration to artists."

To further rebel in the Filipinos about culture and to tap their innate love for art, the 2011 National Heritage Month, with the theme, "Pasiti Nkaring Our Heritage, Friendling Our Relic."

The month-long celebration will feature town fiestas, folk crafts and delicacies, traditional music, theatre, dances and art.

To better raise awareness about the celebration, NCCA has named singer Ogie Alcasid its 2011 heritage ambassador.

The word Tanil, says Mrs. Sylvia Cabrera, Heritage Month project director, is an Ilocano-Pangasinense word that means patience or "heritage."

Call the NCCA Public Affairs and Information Office head Jose Sumbar Nojadera at: 3271020, 3272192, loc. 632 or 633, or 9608-3883/937; or Ayda Cabrera at 327-3282, 327-2192 loc. 512, or 0919-2536553. Visit www.ncca.gov.ph

DQSF Alcasid shoots a promotional video for the National Heritage Month at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, a Unesco World Heritage site.

Intramuros Administration marks 32nd anniversary

A WEEK-LONG celebration marked the Intramuros Administration's (IA) 32nd foundation anniversary.

Among the exhibits on view are "Wala sa Lumang Bahay" and "Subaya: A Preview," mounted at Casa Blanca, Plaza San Luis Complex. Both exhibits will run until May 31, as part of National Heritage Month.

"Wala sa Lumang Bahay" shows architectural details of the bahay na bato.

Also on display are carpentry and museum projects, and wood carvings rendered by famous Taller students.

Intricate chicken and necklaces with naive motifs/one, altruistic, and religious images are among the important cultural artifacts on display in "Subaya: A Preview."

There are just a few of the items included in Intramuros Administration's extensive collection of over 5,000 Philippine antiques from the Spanish colonial period to the present era.

Families and barkada enjoyed free admission to San Santiago, Baluarte de San Diego and Casa Manila. Promos, carnaval and other thrills were also offered for free, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tourists also stopped to Intramuros to take advantage of the many perks and promos offered by restaurants, souvenir shops and tour guides in the Walled City.

The week-long celebration provided a glimpse into the development plans the Intramuros Administration, headed by Jose Capistrano Jr., is formulating with the help of the Department of Tourism.

DA and DOT plan to offer for potential public-private partnership the restored/renovated Intramuros Infirmary.

Capistrano signed a memorandum of understanding with members of the Intramuros Tourism Council (ITC), including ITC chair Jose Monasterio of Monasterio Philippine Handicrafts, and JC de los Reyes of Barbara's Restaurant, ITC president.

ADO EXCLUSIVE. Spanish Ambassador Jorge Dezcallar, Intramuros administrator Jose Capistrano Jr., and National Museum Director Jeremy Barnes run the ribbon formally opening the exhibits "Subaya: A Preview" and "Wala sa Lumang Bahay."

From Ninoy to Noynoy:
25 Years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer

"From Ninoy to Noynoy: 25 years of the Philippine Daily Inquirer" chronicles the last 25 years of Philippine history through the pages, photos, editorials and events chronicled in the last quarter century's newspaper of record.

From the rags to the comic, and the many stories in between, the INQUIRER 25th anniversary offering highlights the resilience and heroism of Filipinos through the waning days of the Marcos dictatorship, the heady days of Edsa People Power I, the earthquakes and volcanic eruptions of the 1990s, the second Edsa People Power at the turn of the century, it ends in its beginning, as the son of the woman whose husband's death sparked its founding becomes the country's 15th president.

Alongside the history of the "democratic project," the book is also the story of the INQUIRER's growth in those years, from a paper financed by a pawned engagement ring to a group of over a dozen publications with a presence in print, broadcast, online and mobile.

Books are available at the
Inquirer Corporate Affairs office, Inquirer Bldg., Yuipe corner Mascardo St.
1018, Cristo Rey Avenue, Makati City.
Free delivery for a minimum order of 10 books
To order, please call Bianca Acuilag at 897-8800 loc. 352 or 899-4426
E-mail: bacuilag@inquirer.com.ph

17TH-CENTURY silver sanctuary lamp

17TH-CENTURY statue of the Child Jesus, in hardwood

17TH-CENTURY statue of the Child

SANTOS of ivory: 18th-century statue of St. Anthony of Padua, 17th-century statue of the Holy Family, 18th-century head and hands of St. Rita, the Nativity scene and 17th-Century Baptism of Christ

17TH CENTURY relief of St. Augustin

LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

New play tackles Philippine history hoax

It explores subjects that theater itself is about

By Walter Ang
Contributor

JOEL Lamangan and Alex Hermosa

IN PLAYWRIGHT'S Theater will stage Rey Quirino' "Fake," a play that asks: When a lie seems better than the truth, what would you rather believe?

"Fake" tells the tale of Miguel, who "discovers that many of the things he believed in when he was young were all lies, and his life becomes an unbelievable search for answers."

His search leads him to Ami Mateo, the infamous "discoverer" of the Code of Kalantiaw and "Lolo Sepio," two documents that became part of Philippine history until they were exposed as hoaxes.

Quirino personally knew the historian who exposed Mateo as a forger.

"I had the great pleasure of meeting with William Henry Scott several times before he died in 1993," he says. "When I mentioned that I was thinking of writing a play about Mateo, Scott jokingly said, 'You should make us aware!'"

The fictitious encounter between fraud and debunker has, indeed, been created for Quirino' new play. He also tackles other debunkers in the confusion that arose from the Age tribe in Mindanao, "the Tasaday."

He has also created a composite religious visionary character for Miguel to encounter.

Praxilla

Quirino' plays "Gimatong" and "Hiraf" have been staged by UPPT. His plays "Shrek Sakat" and "St. Louis Lover Dots. Fil ignatius" (which has received reviews and festivals "Kulay" and "Isang Panagimpo na Hilo" have been staged by UPPT's student companion, Dulaang UP.

Tony Mabesa will direct "Fake." He says one of the rea-

PHILIP. Pereira

Filipino baritone gets crucial role in a Stockhausen opera in Cologne

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

JONATHAN Zaens

BULAN-BASED TE-NOR Jonathan Zaens appeared in an important segment of a contemporary opera by Karlheinz Stockhausen last April 9 and 10 at the Cologne Opera.

Zaens appeared in the opera "Samstag aus Licht" by Stockhausen, considered by critics as one of the most important composers of the 20th and early 21st centuries and "one of the great visionaries of 20th century music."

A protestant of the Yth Sylvia Geszty International Voice Competition, Zaens was a finalist at the Bach International Competition and Mendelssohn Voice Competition.

After finishing his studies in Voice/Music Theater at University of the Arts in Berlin, he was hired at Wuppertaler Opera singing the Mozart roles of Leporello and Guglielmo as top-of guest appearances in the Berliner Chamber Opera and other opera houses in Germany.

FILIPINO BARITONE

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPIN — BY JESS ARDEN

FUSAO KAWOY — BY PAL JUNOX

DICK TRACY

LOVEROOTS — BY ELIZABETH CHECHELO

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

RIND MACHINE — BY TRAVIS ARDEN

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

NUTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TAGOON — BY HANA CHU

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCOISE DYSAD

YOUR BIRTHDAY You have a natural ability to communicate with others, and this week's planetary alignments will help you express yourself in new and exciting ways. Don't be afraid to speak your mind, but remember to listen to what others have to say, too. You may have to work harder than usual to maintain your relationships and partnerships this week, but the effort will be worthwhile. Someone born on this day is extremely creative and has a wonderful sense of humor. Birthstone: Emerald. Birthday flower: Lily of the valley. Famous birthdays: Actress Gwyneth Paltrow, actor Ben Affleck, actress Halle Berry, actor Jason Lee, actress Jennifer Aniston, actor Matthew McConaughey, actress Reese Witherspoon, actress Naomi Watts, actress Kate Hudson, actress Jennifer Garner, actress Mariah Carey, actress Jennifer Lopez, actress Cameron Diaz, actress Christina Aguilera, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt, actress Alicia Silverstone, actress Nicole Kidman, actress Sandra Bullock, actress Julia Roberts, actress Meg Ryan, actress Sharon Stone, actress Whitney Houston, actress Jodie Foster, actress Goldie Hawn, actress Diane Keaton, actress Barbra Streisand, actress Cher, actress Raquel Welch, actress Ann-Margret, actress Elizabeth Taylor, actress Audrey Hepburn, actress Marilyn Monroe, actress Grace Kelly, actress Ingrid Bergman, actress Katharine Hepburn, actress Bette Davis, actress Joan Crawford, actress Greta Garbo, actress Mae West, actress Clara Bow, actress Lillian Gish, actress Mary Pickford, actress Theda Bara, actress Pola Negri, actress Gloria Swanson, actress Norma Talmadge, actress Mary Miles Minter, actress Mabel Normand, actress Alice Joyce, actress Florence Lawrence, actress Mary Pickford, actress Lillian Gish, actress Dorothy Gish, actress Mae Marsh, actress Blanche Sweet

FROM BOOK TO FILM

'Wimpy Kid: Rodrick' rules over book

By Jordan Mario S. De Leon
Correspondent

IT'S TOUGH being a middle-school kid finding your place in the world. But it's even tougher having an older brother whose pastime is TO DESTROY YOU.

Rob Greg Heffley, star of the film "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules."

In the film adaptation of Jeff Kinney's novel of the same title and sequel to last year's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," Greg recounts how he has to not only deal with mid-school issues but must also fend off his bullying older brother, Rodrick.

Worse, his mother, concerned over the siblings' rivalry, decides that to spend quality time together, which isn't exactly the best idea for the two.

Three sibling rivalry treasures a love-and-hate relationship filled with mischief, trouble, adolescent pain, and ultimately, readers because on family trust and friendship that one shares our good laughs from both kids and adults alike.

ZACHARY Gordon and Devon Bostic (left) Robert Capron as "Rowley," Zachary Gordon as "Greg," Grayson Russell as "Fregley" and Karas Brie as "Gretag"

Tween issues

As in the book, Greg, now on seventh grade, is grieving the end of his innocent life during the while reading through his diary. He will have continue to look for his place in the middle-school hierarchy, constantly try but fail to avoid public humiliation, and devise ways to impress the once-new girl in class—things that could be epic mentally-draw.

This is where the film does an effective job, enabling tween issues without going beyond the life of Greg as a mid-school student managing to deliver memorably funny scenes.

In his mind, parties (where it ended is replaced by ended) are awesome, locker-door dances are beyond, learning resisted by peers result is sweeping.

Life as a tween would have been easy for Greg if not for his bully brother Rodrick. While there are a lot of issues older siblings in reality, the film takes silly. Greg's ex-different level but keeps the family audiences in mind.

Rodrick's pranks—leaving Greg sit on chocolate to let everyone in church think he pooped in his white pants, and locking him up in the basement so he holds an illegal house party with friends—may prove too much for an ordinary middle school kid. But not for Greg.

In the film, we see him back past his older brother's horrible acts of bullying and actually finds time to genuinely bond (and have fun over fake vomit, no less), something that is absent in the book.

In fact, the film, which, like the first film, ultimately ends up as a family or values-oriented tale, shows a softer side of the bully Rodrick and works its magic through the interaction among Greg's family and friends, who all productively resolve their issues to end-big-talent-show.

Endearing cast

The star and narrator of the film is Greg (Zachary Gordon), but there are moments when Rodrick's silly yet entertaining persona takes the spotlight away from him. Gordon is perfect for the role of the wimpy one, but it appears he's growing up too fast. It might be a good idea for the filmmakers to milk the most out of him before he outgrows his role.

Devon Bostick, who plays Rodrick, appears a bit too mature for his role. But he actually delivers as a solid performance as a rock 'n' roll, rebellious, high-school punk.

Greg's other loyal best friend, Rowley (Robert Capron), returns and is once again treated as the gullible yet highly-amusing sidekick.

Other cast members are Rachael Harris and Steve Zahn, who play Greg's parents, Susan and Frank, respectively, and Grayson Russell and Owen Fielding, who play Manny, all takes a backseat in this film but manage to put their stamp on memorable lines.

The clever dialogue, the tween issues that exist overdone, and the good ol' family bonding in "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules" a welcome addition to the series, which can potentially become a success provided that its young cast don't grow old too fast.

It's one of those book-based films that is genuinely funnier than the source material.

Romantic novel set in US Depression reaches screen

OSCAR WINNING ACTRESS Renee Witherspoon stars opposite Robert Pattinson in "Water for Elephants," a sweeping drama set in a Depression-era traveling circus.

Pattinson plays Jacob, a talented student, heading for a career as a vet. His world changes dramatically when he discovers that his parents have died in an accident. Destitute, he has to abandon his studies and look for work. He boards a train and of town and only hours does he realize that he has joined rodeo-style troupe.

Drawn to Marlena (Witherspoon), the radiant and talented equestrian star of the 'Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth,' he accepts a job taking care of the animals. The relationship between Marlena and Jacob develops furtively. She is already married to the moody, possessive and dangerously abusive August (Christoph Waltz), the ringmaster who runs the show. Benzie, the dignified and graceful elephant, has a key role in this richly-human story.

When Sara Gruen's novel 'Water for Elephants' was published in 2006, it became a huge success, spending 12 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. Readers savored the novel's poignant tale Gruen's characters' joys, loves, redemption and challenges.

Among the book's legions of fans is Witherspoon. "It's a wonderful story of love, hope, redemption, second chances and finding happiness," the Oscar-winning actor notes. "I got so pulled into the world from page one!"

Hollywood was another admirer of Gruen's characters and world. "Paramount sent me the book, and I immediately connected to it," he remembers. "Paramount would have agree to portray Jacob Jankowski, who after a personal tragedy, wanders without destination before hopping aboard a random train, which turns out to be the home of the Benzini Bros. Circus. That herded train into substantial by takes him into Marlena, and a romance and destiny that neither could have imagined.

The work of costume designer Jacqueline West was instrumental in creating the richness my between the stone glitter and the world outside the big top in Depression-era America.

Marlena's outfits were based on those worn by 1930s film stars, as well on those that adorned real circus women of the era. "In Marlena, Renee's outfits included a beaded evening dress and parade costume with matching bustles made from vintage sequin pieces put together in patchwork. Her evening gowns to Dior. Even the one at the movies, worn by some of the pe-

"WATER for Elephants" costume designer Jacqueline West (above) and stars Rob Pattinson and Renee Witherspoon

dal's top stars, including Jean Harlow, Carol Lombard and Constance Bennett."

A testament to the sets' mix of period realism and glamour — as well as to the Elizabeth Gruen's attention when she visited the set. "I was speechless," she remembers. "You know, a few years ago, all of this was entirely in my head, and now here it is. It's as close to what I had imagined. It's a very surreal experience."

Water for Elephants is now showing in Metro Manila, Cebu and Pampanga.

New play tackles . . .

From page D1

tions Quintos' works are often featured by the group is that he a "very prolific Filipino-set novel a production to season, he has a plan to offer us.

"I think we could do one production per semester instead of just once a year, but we have a very limited budget. Our actors and crew get a very, very modest honorarium each, if any. Our theater is limited by the school size. Also, our theater of material has never been seen," he said.

"However, for Value," Hap's choice of subject matter is very adventurous. It's the perfect subject matter for theater. It's about truth and illusion, the very subjects that theater itself is about."

Not precious

Mabini Founded UPPC now celebrating its 25th year, after being part of the 10th Philippine Theatre Festival.

"That year, they focused on drama and I helped choose the best three plays for staging," he says.

"I used the opportunity to establish UPPC and decided to stage productions in the Bamboo Center Theater, which was later renamed Tanghalang Huseng Batute after the father of Filipino Sarsuela."

Every major drama company in the world usually has what they call 'the artist place,' a non-possession performance space that allows artists to work in a different environment from the space where they present the works in their "main stage."

UPPC's objective is to produce original plays or revivals of plays by Filipino playwrights.

Mabini says working with Quintos on new plays is easy because "he's not precious about his work. He's very flexible, he still adjust what needs to be adjusted. He's very involved; it helps that he's a director himself, so he understands why changes need to be made.

SHOWTIME Rosemarie

"If you don't want people meddling with your work, you can be a painter, novelist or poet, but not a playwright. Theater is collaborative," he says emphatically.

Point

The power of a writer's creation is not lost on Quintos. With this play, he further contemplates the power of the "truths" within a situation and the "truths" that lies in the acceptance of those "truths."

"We could say that history is just a perception of facts," he says. "All those documents that are inscribed in Manila have always fascinated me. So many important scholars have focused him."

"That the documents have been proven as forgeries isn't to finish the point as 'who would' a man do this," he says. "He wouldn't have done it for money or for fame. Those are the effects of an insufficient forger; so maybe he really wanted to give us 'Filipinos something. Perhaps a sense of history, of pride, of identity? Perhaps he wanted to do something subject?

"The character that I created, Miguel, is representative of cynical Filipinos duped by so many lakes. Hopefully, the play leads us to ask what is it really that constitutes as a concept of nationhood. Is it simply just facts? Or is there, rather, value to emphasize?"

The cast includes Raquel Villavicencio making with Gemma Pinanon as Miguel; Joel Lamangan and local-style alternating as Joel Mauro; Paul Holme as William Henry Scott; Liz Alcantara alternating with Alyn Ferrazzan as Maeve's wife Gen. Esperon; and Shamaine Buencamino as Gloria Emily.

"Value" runs May 4 to 15 at Tanghalang Huseng Batute. (SF Family Center, University of the Philippines, Diliman) CDs: Call 09.17.7566.837, 926.1349 or 2.843.751.

Filipino baritone gets crucial role in a Stockhausen opera in Cologne

From page D1

Zaens earlier figured in the world premiere of Stockhausen's "Stelle Zeiten" (Beatriz Segun) in the 2003 Salzburg Festival, making him the third Filipino singer to invade the festival after soprano Evelyn Mandac and tenor Donald Kumpas.

The Opera Cologne production of the Stockhausen opera was commissioned and directed by the famous Spanish group La Fura de Baus, known for spectacular productions.

Embarrassing moment

Interviewed by the Spanish journalist Ismael José Gonzalez Cabral of the Spanish Post, Zaens and his first encounter with the controversial German composer's music was clearly after finishing his studies at the academy for the arts in Berlin (Hochschule der Kunste), the tenor was offered the bass role in Michaels Angeal from "Donnerstag aus Licht," in a production for the Staats Musik Festival 2002 in Berlin.

Zaens recalled: "I may have done before maybe 40 contemporary operas with Frank Martin and Judith Weir in small student recitals in the academy, but Stockhausen was my first hardcore, large-scale contemporary work. I was such a neophyte in this genre at the time, that it took me almost a year to learn my part in Michaels Angeal. But that part off because I got a personal telephone call from Stockhausen after our first-time premiere, engaging me to sing the baritone part in Stelle Zeiten for the Salzburger Festspiele."

The Filipino baritone also admitted his first telephone encounter with Stockhausen was also one of the most embarrassing moments in his life.

"When Mr. Stockhausen called, he introduced himself only as Stockhausen," Zaens said. "I thought it was a friend making a joke on me. I asked back in a mischievous and almost irreverent tone: 'Do you mean the Boxer Stockhausen?'—using the informal form of 'you' in German. The moment he confirmed it, I suddenly realized he was the real one! If there is one thing I've performed in the German academic it is the big difference between 'sie' and 'du'."

Capability, limitation

In the same interview, Zaens complimented the German composer for his versatility in the human capability and limitations. "I bet he sang what he wrote himself! As a result, his vocal lines, in spite of different styles, are very singable without struggle. Unlike some other contemporary composers, he doesn't demand vocal acrobatics which are impossible to sing and, to some extent, would even do damage to the voice. In that, German telephone conversation, I remember him asking specifically how high I could sing in a bare baritone, while he was working on the part for Stile-Zeichen. I told him it depended on how I got there. When the score came and I started learning my part, I was so happy and actually relieved to see that my vocal line was manageable. (But it was well thought of, that it was singer-friendly and that he carefully took into consideration my vocal capability as well as limitations."

Zaens described the most striking aspect of the Stockhausen opera as developed by La Fura del Baus: "Honestly, I didn't know of La Fura del Baus until this production. But true to their reputation, they have made a spectacle out of 'Sonntag aus Licht.' I am so amazed with the dimension of ideas they have integrated into the work. The lights, the water, the fire, the dancers, the costumes . . . Wow, indeed! Here I with my bare voice and musical tone so that these spectacular ideas could have been executed in detail and integrated to further enhance and really support Stockhausen's music own score."

Thrilled, honored

Another Stockhausen work, "Universe" (a Sung cycle), was also written with the Filipino baritone in mind.

"I am of course, thrilled and very honored that Stockhausen practically wrote 'Orionium' for my voice! In 'Orionium,' the singer describes and explains in detail how the piece is actually composed, how the rhythm, melody and harmony go. This entails a lot of text, and because of this, Karlhinz Patzwer was telling me, Stockhausen purposely assigned this particular piece to the baritone of the clarity of my German diction. Our can't have a better compliment as a singer! Mr. Stockhausen's inventive spirit at that! Stockhausen wanted and really demanded for the clarity of each word. So I am thankful for he has trained me and deemed me worthy of this task. By the way, the baritone in 'Orionium' is required to perform the piece by heart! It's just scary that I wasn't able to work with him personally on this piece."

Zaens has also recorded the CD "Sacrilinar: Philippine Art Songs." He was accompanied by pianist Abelardo Isidro. It also based in Berlin.

Produced by Sandra Kolter and recorded in St. Bruno Gemeinde Grosser Saal in Berlin, the CD features Lasalimo compositions of Nicanor Abelardo, Francisco Santiago, Hilde Velarde Jr. and Resurreccion Bunyi.

Spanish film cycle on youth issues screens at Instituto Cervantes

INSTITUTO CERVANTES de Manila will hold this month "Portraits of Youth,"—a film cycle collecting various shades of the Spanish youth universe from the 1950s up to the early new century.

The film cycle, in Spanish with English subtitles, screens every Saturday, 4 and 6 p.m., at Instituto Cervantes' Salon de Actos.

"Our eight film lineup is a special collection that explores issues that are important to youth," said Instituto Cervantes director José Rodríguez. "These films focus on coming-of-age themes that will inspire the audience, especially the youth, to think critically about issues impacting their community."

Opening film on May 7, 4 p.m., is Pedro Almodóvar's "Laberinto de Pasiones" (Labyrinth of Passion), a comedy that follows the story of a nymphomaniac pop star who falls in love with a gay Middle Eastern prince.

This will be followed with the screening of Alejandro Amenábar's psychological thriller "Abre los ojos" (Open Your Eyes), a film that depicts the story of a former womanizer (Eduardo Noriega), disfigured in a car crash, who has trouble distinguishing dreams from reality. Almodóvar director Cameron Crowe remade this film as "Vanilla Sky" in 2001, with Tom Cruise and Penélope Cruz.

Screening on May 14, 4 p.m., is "El Otro Lado de la Cama" (The Other Side of the Bed), a story of two couples who entertain and change partners as they search for happiness and love.

It will be followed at 6 p.m. by the award-winning 2001 Spanish drama film "Lucía y el Sexo (Sex and Lucía)," a film that chronicles the story of a young waitress (Paz Vega) who runs away to a secluded Mediterranean island after the death of her writer boyfriend.

On May 21, Salvador García Bodo's "Mecánika" and Mario Biondi's "Tu Vida en Mi (Your Life in Mi)" will be screened.

The film cycle concludes May 28 with the showing of "Dispar," a film that centers around a tapas bar and the love lives of the loosely interconnected people in the neighborhood; and "Yo Soy la Juani" (My Name is Juani), a 2006 comedy-drama written and directed by Bigas Luna.

"Portraits of Youth" is organized by Instituto Cervantes de Manila in collaboration with the Spanish Embassy in the Philippines, the Spanish Agency International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

Admission to all the screenings is free on a first come, first served basis. Call 5301482 or visit http://manila.cervantes.es. Instituto Cervantes de Manila is at 103 Tordesillas St., Urdaneta, Manila.

"MY NAME Is Juani"

PEN holds literature teaching workshop in Iloilo City

THE PHILIPPINE Center of International PEN (Poets, Playwrights, Essayists, Novelists) is conducting the literature teaching workshop under "Sir Loot of the Island: Pendatun on Teaching Philippine Literature in High School and College," on May 6, 8:30 a.m. 4 p.m., at the University of San Agustin's Conference Room; Rizal Hall, Gen. Luna Street, Iloilo City.

The second of the series, the Iloilo literature workshop will focus on teaching poetry and fiction in English, Filipino and regional languages.

Lecture facilitators are PEN authors and Abrakadak Dramatiding Teacher Awardees Interpret Franco and Leonie Gonzaga.

This workshop is co-hosted by University of San Agustin-Iloilo, and supported by PEN International in UK and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

For inquiries and preregistration, contact Philippine PEN at Ateneo de Manila University, 3/F Rizal's Shrine St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines, tel. 4266870; mobile: 0.9155008; e-mail: philippinepen@yahoo.com; mobile: 0917-5267493.

ROSALINDA OROSA'S NEW BOOK

A grand lady's summing-up

By Ernesto Ma. Guerrero
Cover Story

"ME BORED? a la mania?" I have dedicated myself to music), Rosalinda L. Orosa, music critic and essayist, once told me when I asked her why she no longer wrote drama and dance reviews.

Along with some relatives, Rosalinda (Baby or Tita Baby, depending on the age of her interlocutor or friend) is one of those in whom I still speak in the language of Cervantes and Gabriel García Márquez. (The latter, by the way, is considered "the new Cervantes"), if only not to forget this language passed on to us by our parents and grandparents.

Speaking of Spanish, in her latest book ("Turning Back the Pages," Manila Times Publishing), Rosalinda quotes Ben Chee Bocts, Father of Modern Philippine Nationalism, as saying that Spain's legacy to the Philippines is "this immortal refuge: religion and in most cases, sensational vanity—the consciousness of our country as a country, the family institution, and the Spanish language."

In another essay, the author quotes this time, Doña Asunto Aquino (a Spanish language professor and grandmother of PNoy's) as saying that "the Tagalog words Thomas Aquinas commits that praying in Spanish is the best approach to God."

The range of this book is remarkable, and will surprise those who only know the author through her music reviews. Split essays and profiles published in book form.

Here we have essays, speeches; profiles [illegible] Laurel, Lopez and Sumulong; short stories, poems and light verses; literary exercises; "humor in various guises," memorable letters paying tribute to the author, by prominent persons like historian Isabelo Quiazon; and, as a coda, a photo album.

Rosalinda's gentle, piquant sense of humor is evident in a generous selection of her writing in the postwar period: "Here's to 42 Jim! He's not so fast you know! Watch his mix or brogue or clutch! But still... we'll be glad to see him go."

In the literary critiques, however, Rosalinda's claim to fame lies in her sensible music reviews, deliberately excluded from this book to give it a "literary" appeal.

Former French Ambassador Olivier Gaumat hit the nail on the head when he described the author thus:

"As a critic, aware of the demands of artistic creation, your approach avoids exaggerated praise or denunciation. If you point out shortcomings in weak points together with the strong, your aim is to encourage the artist to push forward even further toward the point of perfection.

"Valse notes played during a concert do not escape your attention, but you do not hesitate to write that Andre 'concentrated' by a talented and impassioned pianist are preferable to the technically perfect but soulless execution of a musical score."

"Turning Back the Pages" is a grand Lady's summing up of her accomplishments "documented" through the decades, and still resonating.

"Turning Back the Pages" is available at bookstores' Book Sale, Ayala, Manila, at 525.00/copy.

SUGAR-FREE IS WORRY-FREE

Life can be sweet as sugar. However, for people with health concerns, life can still be so sweet even without it for a number of good reasons.

While sugar is meant to give energy, eliminating it can help lessen your weight issues. The less sugar, the less calories. A lot of foods are sweetened with ruthless "sad sugar" (usually processed stuff) as white table sugar). Eating such when you don't need the energy only makes the body's sugar levels rise, where this happens, the body stores sugar as fat.

Cutting such sugar minimizes the risk of dental problems, and for diabetics and the diabetes prone, a sugar-free diet helps keep blood sugar levels normal.

That's why for this, there's Gardenia Sugar-Free 12-Grain Loaf, a great tasting bread without the calories of sugar. And with its multitude of grains (such as oats, barley and flaxseed), Gardenia Sugar-Free 12-Grain Loaf isn't just never a delightfully crunchy texture and smooth bite like other bite, plus a healthy choice tasty slice after slice! So why worry? Whatever your health concerns, feel free to go sugar-free with Gardenia Sugar-Free 12-Grain Loaf. Get it now at supermarkets, groceries and stores nearest you!

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Casey Abrams proud he brought jazz to 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES — Quoted "American Idol" contestant Casey Abrams, 20, said on Friday he was proud of bringing a fresh jazz twist to the TV show, but admitted that his signature crowd-caught faint hasn't been too much for audiences to take. "My goal is to bring that kind of music into popular culture. I just want to get [musicians] invited [more]. I am just a middle man."

CHANCE on "Glee": Could she possibly end up as a contender?

Take it from Gwyneth

CHARICE is back on the second season of "Glee" after a rather long hiatus, but the plot complications that her character, Sunshine Corazon, provides is a humdinger that could generate substantial drama—and thus viewers' interest and even excitement—in episodes to come.

That's good for Charice, but her comeback episode, while it did give her a cute musical number as showcase for her spacious kind of singing, ended up as a rather frustrating viewing experience. In it, she pretended to return to the Glee group for a birthday show—but failed to show up, making the event a financial flop.

The big question now is, if Sunshine is to figure strongly in the other episodes this season, how to blame it on going to be forgiven by the Glee kids, who were depending on her great appearance to sell tickets?

Could she possibly end up as a contender, the ball-blown competition for Lea Michele's character? Let's hope not, because Charice is the too young to go the new villain and/or vixen route!

'Dark' character

It could also be that Sunshine will remain a "dark" character until the season is about to end, and then turn out to be "misunderstood" and thus even help the season by getting the Glee's out of a right theatrical spot—and end up strolling like roses.

However the rest of the current season plays itself out, there's little doubt that season 3 is to be Jet production's cards, as Charice, if she's kept on, stands to benefit from the exposure. Who knows, has stay-opt out of the show due to other stellar commitments, so Charice could end up as the Glee's main soloist? Well, it isn't illegal to dream, is it?

Truth to tell, however, the really big deal in last month's "Glee" episode featuring Charice was Gwyneth Paltrow's emoting mid-turn as the substitute teacher with a heart—and voice—of gold.

She's no belting diva, but her solo spot was a statement because she infused it with so much emotional performance and intelligence. Well, she's an award-winning actress for nothing!

The amazing thing is the fact that, before she agreed to play her recurring role in "Glee,"

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Printed and distributed by Newspaper Direct
www.newspaperdirect.com 1.877.363.1233 info@newspaperdirect.com
Copyright and Protection as a Compilation

Not your garden-variety hunk

PBB grad Tom Rodriguez wants to break the usual stud mold

By Raquel Ann Dingcle

MANILA—Although he sees the really figure of a garden variety hunk, ABS-CBN talent Tom Rodriguez seems determined to break the mold of the mindless, talentless macho men.

On the set of Dery Cantengbee's Tropical Island," Tom impressed me a few pics...cute members and visitors alike...with his artistic side.

Comic Adrian Hernandez, a painter himself, insisted that Tom is a gifted artist. Pri. Lee Jacob Alfaro also said: "Tom showed us the drawings in his laptop. They're beautiful."

A graduate of the Kapamilya reality show "Pinoy Big Brother," Tom majored in a graphic artist in the United States.

Between takes, he worked on the drawings on his laptop.

His love for the arts became all the more evident when he was visited the Juan Luna Shrine in Badoc near the movie set in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. The sun and cave were with Gov. Imee Marcos at the landmark.

"I'm a student of Luna's works," he said. In Antonio, where his family ancestral where he was 12, he was fascinated with Luna's art in school. "But I really wanted to know more about Filipino artists."

The "Epidurians" in his favorite among Luna's works. "Another one is a painting of a Spanish senora," he said. "It's very detailed."

On the set of the Kapamilya series "MJ: Malay Mo Ma Develop," he got a much sooner on Philippine arts courtesy of lead star Aga Muhlach.

Aga learned of his interest and gave him a list of Filipino masters from Manansala to Resnais. "Magagaling ang mga 'Nony. Di artists are world class," said Tom.

Apart from painting and drawing, Tom also has musical talents. He sat a CD with the metal group Side Boys and composes songs on the side.

He found it unfortunate, however, that he is known nonetheless for his "trooper moment" on PBB, where he was shown punching the wall repeatedly.

"That incident was blown out of proportion and was taken out of context," he explained. "Sure your has a temper, especially if provoked."

Comic John Lapus noted that Tom is the easiest person to get along with and in Mr. Pi (personified).

"He's a good guy," said his concerns partner Marian Rivera.

Case in point: He is the only Kapamilya artist not to complain, but was able to bond effortlessly with the other stars from the rival network.

"If he wants a career out of being a sailing pusa...he quipped. "I'm happy that I'm always included in ensemble movies like 'Three Cheers for Bride' and now 'Tropical Island.'"

Although he cautioned that he got overseas where he had to shoot his daring scenes in "Temptation," he was somewhat prepared.

"I saw it on TV when I was young," he said.

He's quite familiar with 1980s Filipino movies because he lived in Cotabato, Kamar until age 12. "I can't forget the famous stars Rosa and the giant chicken and lawyers in 'Temptation,' of course."

PAGCOR
In search of
Miss Casino Filipino 2011

TO PAY TRIBUTE to the quintessential Modern Filipina, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) kicks off its pageant-in search for Miss Casino Filipino 2011 this early month of May.

The pageant is open to Filipinas aged 18 to 25 who possess beauty, poise, intelligence and charm. The grand winner will receive P500,000 in cash, PAGCOR Lot for Life retirement, P250,000 for the second runner-up, and P150,000 for the fourth runner-up.

Apart from the cash prizes, the winners will also have the opportunity to be part of other Casino Filipino shows and events and the chance to help a charitable institution of their choice due to PAGCOR's Corporate Social Responsibility program nationwide.

"It is going to be different from other beauty contests because winners will not only be winners based on their looks. What we are looking for are Filipinas who have the beauty, intelligence and heart," Quintana said.

He describes Miss Casino Filipino as a "beautiful woman with the heart to serve." The winner will become the official representative of Casino Filipino in its various entertainment events and of PAGCOR in its Corporate Social Responsibility projects nationwide.

Quintana said the stakes have proved to be very rewarding and entertainment enterprises through its Casino Filipino brand. PAGCOR also engages very lucrative social responsibility projects geared towards social development.

"With its brand worth, we can have valuable effects and help us drive to the public such significant undertakings of the corporation," he added.

From July 1 to 31, the beauty pageant will have qualifying competitions at the Casino Filipino franchises in Davao, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Cagayan, Pampanga, Ilocos, Baguio, Subic, Boracay, Puerto Princesa, and Pasay City. There will be a total of 16 contestants will vie for the Miss Casino Filipino crown during the Grand Pageant Night to be held at the PAGCOR Grand Theater in Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque City.

Contestants must be single, citizens of the Philippines and residing in the country for the last six months prior to the registration, and of good moral character. They must also possess poise, personality, intelligence, school, formal and casual classes.

Those interested to join the search for Miss Casino Filipino 2011 may call the PAGCOR Entertainment Department at 521-7918 and 522-7364 for more information.

Casino Filipino
ASIA'S FRIENDLIEST

FESTIVAL of SHOWS

SHOWS START AT 9PM

FREE ADMISSION

ALLAN
May 6, Casino Filipino Mimosa
Ticket Price: P300

ELIZABETH RAMSEY & ADRIANA MITCHELL
May 7, CF Tagaytay
Ticket Price: P450

MIKE PETE & GENEVIEVE
May 11, Casino Filipino Angeles
Ticket Price: P300

CARYLLE
May 13, CF Tagaytay
Ticket Price: P600

JOSE SR. SR
May 20, Casino Filipino Mimosa
Ticket Price: P200

MERLE RAMIREZ
May 28, Casino Filipino Angeles
Ticket Price: P300

JAMES CONCEPCION
May 27, CF Tagaytay
Ticket Price: P600

HENRY & SAMIL MANALILI
May 26, CF Tagaytay
Ticket Price: P600

RAMON PONCE
May 28, CF Tagaytay
Ticket Price: P600

VIVA HERNAN
May 28, Casino Filipino Angeles
Ticket Price: P600

For inquiries, please contact the PAGCOR Entertainment Dept. at tel. nos. 522-7364 or 522-7364, Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

www.pagcor.ph

TOM does a portrait of his nephew Faulkner on his laptop. Instructor-teller, sometimes

Take it from Gwyneth

Pampanga-It

Faulkner was already a big name in Hollywood. So, her role in "Glee," even if the show is a huge hit, is a bit of a demotion.

But, even the recently savvy performer, Gwyneth has used it to brilliant advantage to reveal another (modestly for her) to her vocal performing prowess.

Thus far she managed as her character's version of Meryl Streep, the consummate vocal performer who can't seem to do anything wrong.

"Glee" is Gwyneth's corollary to Streep's "Mamma Mia," the movie musical that showed that the great dramatic actress can more than carry a tune, she can even carry an entire film musical and turn it into a showstick.

Faulkner is also good in "Glee" because her performance like the show from being just a crass artist and makes it appeal to us...our viewers as well. In addition, it gives the young Chris performers something to work at and aspire to.

If she's smart, even Chester could learn a lot from Gwyneth's flaw example. She not heading on just belting for belting's sake to announcer/co-listeners. Now, that would really be a valuable can we life lessons learned!

GWYNETH Faulkner with Madame Martinez in "Glee"

Rising OPM stars *Exceptional amateur singers bring Pinoy music back to life*

They are ordinary people coming from all walks of life whose dreams was to join the league of the country's finest performers and make a lasting mark in the music industry.

A hairdresser... a roofer... a travel agent/driver... a talking theater actor... a voice teacher... a wedding singer... a nurse... a call center agent... a freelance jingle songwriter... people who all came together to pursue their passion for singing.

Rose Rather Rabara, Faye Berbon Abadilla, Lizzie Murphy Regala, Hanael Ferrer, Maria Joyce Taduda, Jane Esther Rabara, Jill Christie Barangay, Paulette Constantino, Harlene Yee Gonzaga, Charles Kevin Tan, Arnel Bello, Fred Rasquila Jr., Steve Fernandez, and Eddy Jay Tagaran were done in fulfilling their dreams after they were chosen as grand finalists for the OPM@PAGCOR, A Nationwide Search for the Total OPM Performer!

The 14 grand finalists hailed from the 8,000 applicants from all over the archipelago.

Further to many talented Filipinos who neither have the access to or connections in the music industry, the 11 OPM@PAGCOR grand finalists are the search organized by the Organizers ng Pilipinong Mang-awit and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) as their first step towards a musical career that could benefit more than the OPM (local music).

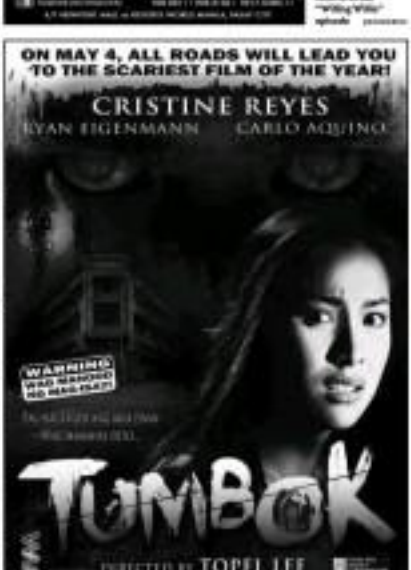
PAGCOR will provide the regional finalists an all-expense paid trip and free accommodation in Manila when they undergone intensive training and performance workshop from May 29 to June 1. The workshop will be facilitated by some of the country's music luminaries – singers, music educators, concert and musical directors, and professional talent managers. On June 10, they will vie for the honor of being the country's first Total OPM Performer!

The top three winners will receive cash prizes of P500,000 (1st prize), P200,000 (2nd prize) and P100,000 (3rd prize). The grand winner will also get a recording contract from a major music recording company and a performance contract from PAGCOR. Moreover, the first runner-up will get a consolation prize of P50,000 each.

OPM artists and connoisseurs Eugene Asuncion lauded PAGCOR's efforts for helping promote Filipino music. She noted that aside the day when Filipino performers could go global to promote the country and the unique brand of Filipino music. "The Philippines is a singing country. Throughout the Spanish era, we can observe the love of music culture," Asuncion noted.

Meanwhile, former OPM President and APO Hiking Society member Dan Fuentebella also one of the jurors during the 1970s/OPM 1980s note-check in Metro Manila said the search discovered a lot of the talents of the young contemporaneous Filipino singers who have great potential to become professional performers. "In the latter search, we don't have to look far out or daughters of a prominent personality. Search's unfolding have treasures in their talented in search to" he said.

Grand finalist Eddy Jay Tagaran said she was glad she had the given up on singing despite being rejected in several auditions before. "My biggest dream is to become a professional singer. Salamat sa PAGCOR at OPM. Malaki para sa amin ng mga kagaya kong mahilig sa pagkanta ang mabigyan ng ganitong mga pagkakataon," she said.



How 'Jan-Jan' woke up local TV industry

By Buyard San Diego Jr.

IN THE PAST few weeks, the TV landscape has been rocked by the aftershocks of a scandal that erupted after Jan-Jan, a 6-year-old boy, performed what was described as a "macho dance" in the TV game show "Willing Willie."

ABS-CBN has also been criticized because of little girls who performed a "sexy" number in "Showtime" and child stars who are portrayed in adult situations in "Going Bulilit."

"In a way the Jan-Jan incident in 'Willing Willie' was a wake-up call for the entire broadcasting industry," ABS-CBN Network ombudsman Jose Ving told reporters Tuesday.

As lawsuits and probes commenced from all sides, the Kapamilya network buckled down to work, drafting its own Child Protection Handbook.

"ABS-CBN has always been sensitive to the special requirements of children," said Ving, a retired Supreme Court justice. "The recent controversy merely highlighted the need for refinement and elaboration of these guidelines."

Ving said the current draft of the Child Protection Handbook includes "comprehensive discussions on the network's commitment to child welfare."

It contains the network's standards and definitions of terms like "child labor" and "normal development of a child"), Ving explained.

> Kapamilya ombudsman hopes controversy will lead to child protection reforms in the network and, hopefully, in the entire industry

The handbook was written in light of child labor prohibitions as mandated by relevant laws he added.

Republic Act 9231, the proposed law, seeks to "eliminate the worst forms of child labor" and RA 7610 aims "to protect children against abuse, exploitation and discrimination." The Department of Labor and Employment Direct Order 65-04 sets the implementing rules and regulations on the two laws.

Ethical code

Ving said the network is a signatory to the 2007 Broadcast Code formulated by the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

As a KBP member, ABS-CBN adheres to the code, which "controls TV networks that children should not be required, coerced or lured to narrate traumatic experiences on shows ... that they should not be ridiculed, demeaned or demeaned, and camera angles shouldn't be used to create indecent and inappropriate images."

Rony Osorio, head of the network's corporate communications, told the Inquirer that the first draft of the handbook is being reviewed by the ombudsman. "The process of finalization should take no more than a couple of weeks," he said.

Reacting to criticisms that the network had exercised because of "Showtime" and "Going Bulilit," Ving said: "Regardless of the show, the Office of the Network Ombudsman feels strongly that children should be treated with care, respect and dignity. They shouldn't be subjected to exploitation, embarrassment, harassment or humiliation in whatever manner."

Osorio said ABS-CBN will participate in the industry-wide summit being planned by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board to discuss pertinent issues. "We will undertake our share to this effort."

The network also set up the Call/Text/Letter Center, an instant feedback mechanism meant to entertain complaints from viewers.

"Anyone can call our trunk line, 453-1211, anytime. Phone agents will answer calls and take down feedback from viewers 24-7. Their comments are then forwarded to the show's production staff," Osorio said.

E-mail bayaninsandiego@hotmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

FAIRY TALE WEDDING. Prince William and Kate Middleton

CLICK! *Gloria Romero top-bills prime time family drama*

GLORIA Romero top-bills "Mara ang Hawakan," ESPN 5's first foray in scripted prime time drama, which debuts on May 9 on GMA Television. She plays Doña Amparita, a rich widow in search of her "missing boyfriend," starring her son Mark Anthony Fernandez, Ara Mina, Camille Prats, Rustica Carpio, Neil Ryan Sese, Tony Mabesa, Leandro Baldemor, Gabby Eigenmann, Luz Valdez, Janet Chang, Kristel Reyes, Alexandra Macua, Jeanette Poulos, Mona Locsin, Joy Kyle Cristel Granger and Bobbie Miguel.

Stars share their own fairy tales

DOLLY WOOD
Daily Inquirer Correspondent

AFTER the Wedding Parade, will Prince William and Kate Middleton remain loyal? Will they not do a Prince Charles and Lady Di, who lived happily never after.

The nieces of Willi and Kate is the stuff that fairy tales are made of. Since it's not all in a dreamy state, I asked some celebs about a fairy tale like they don't've had. After cost, not only princes and princesses deserve a happy ending. Mine would be the summer I lived and studied in Paris. That magical chapter of my life will forever stand out in my memory.

We all have our own fairy tales to tell. May life and love's twists and turns keep us bewitched, enchanted and bewildered, especially in this month of flowers. May magic and wonder be in full bloom in your hearts and may every thing be coming up roses in your life!

MARCO ALCARAZ

MARCO ALCARAZ: "It was the first time I kissed Lara who's now my fiancée. I felt like the luckiest 'commoner' for being able to have a 'quest.'"

BELA PADILLA

PRINCESS LARA DELRAMAN: "When I was rescued Miss Intellectual, I felt like a queen and was treated like one. Everyone's attention was on me. It was a dream come true."

BELA PADILLA: "It's like a fairy tale every time I ride a plane. It's always quiet a surreal experience for me. I especially love the takeoff. The roar of the engines makes me feel like I'm going to do something really brave. I relish looking down at a place that's so familiar yet seems so small. That makes me feel super clean myself!"

JON AVILA

JON AVILA: "That would be when I met Gretchen Tonu-Ingles. Aside, considering I was fat before, I worked and prayed so hard. It's definitely a moment in my life that's like a fairy tale."

MR. FU: "It was like a fairy tale when my college crush went to my place and brought

Stars share their own fairy tales

Dec. 8, 2003 when I walked down the red carpeted aisle in my French lace wedding gown and exchanged "I do's" with my prince—and now king of my life... Julius Babao!"

AMY PEREZ: "My fairy tale day is yet to come. It's that day when Cashmere and I say I finally got married."

HAYDEN KHO: "Fairy tale day? That was the day Mikki turned the beast in me into a prince with love and a magical kiss."

KC-Polo revelations

KC Concepcion reveals more about her relationship with Piolo in Kuwentito May's May 2011 issue. In a special 24-page spread, you'll get to know more about KC and her passions. It also has interesting features on ASIA CHO's summer station ID shoot, the new home of Vina Garuda and John Lapus, and 1:06 presentations and elaborations of your favorite celebs. Worth the read!

PERSONAL: Thanks with all my heart to Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, lawyer Quiel Salvio and my GF roommate Amabet Nabua for inviting me to be a judge at the Mutya ng Magayon and for spoiling me more than I deserve. Endless thanks also to my Taipei friend Miss Rumela, Tan Boris Javier, Vice Gov. Rom Uy, Francis Alonso, Billy Dalbo, Svengoolie Vico Mayor Robet Rodriguenza, Albay Gov. Gov. Emerald Imperial, Mister Hilario, the efficient staff of Peppermint Hotel (Legazpi City) and to the wonderful staff of Magayon Festival 2011 for such a super fun time in Oregon country. We all made it so cool to be in Bicol!

E-mail: wanna.be.kuleng@yahoo.com.

SHANG CINEFLEX

1) THOR 2:40, 4:40, 7:30
2) THOR (3D) 1:30, 3:40, 6:20, 8:00
3) THOR 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 8:30
4) DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2: DJ'S ... 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00
5) ARTHUR (PG-13) 7:00, 9:40
6) BEASTLY 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30

PASQUIAO vs. MOSLEY (May 8)
Tickets NOW AVAILABLE
Call 633-2227 for more details
Megaworld Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ARTHUR—PG13 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30	BEASTLY—PG13 12:40, 2:40, 4:50	THOR—SP 11:30, 1:00, 6:30, 8:00, 10:35
THOR (In 3D)—SP 1:15, 3:45, 6:10, 8:45	DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2: RODRICK RULES—SP 1:05, 2:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	THOR (In 3D)—SP 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:45

PRICES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Greenbelt | Trinoma | Alabang Town Center | Ayala Center Cebu | Marquee | Market! Market!

3D EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

PASQUIAO MOSLEY

BUY TICKETS NOW! CALL 911-5555

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4
1) RIO (In Digital 3D) 11:45, 2:30, 4:55 LHF
THOR 7:55, 9:40 LHF
2) THOR (In Digital 3D) 12:00, 5:20, 6:00, 9:40 LHF
3) THOR (In Digital 3D) 1:00, 3:30, 6:30, 7:20, 9:55 LHF
4) ARTHUR 12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40 LHF
5) DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 LHF
6) BEASTLY 12:00, 4:20 LHF
7) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55 LHF

GREENBELT 5
1) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55 LHF
2) THOR 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15 LHF

GREENBELT 3
1) THOR 1:30, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:15 LHF
2) THOR 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 11:50 LHF
3) DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:00, 11:50 LHF
4) BEASTLY 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 LHF
5) ARTHUR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 LHF

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1) THOR 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40 LHF
2) THOR (Digital 3D) 1:00, 3:45, 6:40, 9:15 LHF
3) BEASTLY 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LHF
4) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 LHF
5) WIMPY KID 2 1:00, 3:30 LHF
ARTHUR 6:00, 8:15, 10:45 LHF

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1) THOR 12:00, 2:45, 7:00, 9:45 LHF
2) ARTHUR 1:00, 3:30, 5:30, 8:00 LHF
BEASTLY 5:45, 7:15, 9:45 LHF
3) THOR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 LHF
4) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 2:00, 5:00, 7:15, 9:45 LHF

MARQUEE
1) THOR 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 LHF
2) THOR (3D) 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30 LHF
3) HALL PASS 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 LHF
BEASTLY 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LHF
4) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:50, 9:00 LHF

MARKET! MARKET!
1) THOR (3D) 11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:30 LHF
2) ARTHUR 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 9:15 LHF
3) THOR 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 LHF
4) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 LHF
5) RESERVED
6) RESERVED
7) BEASTLY 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 LHF

TRINOMA
1) BEASTLY 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 LHF
2) PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 LHF
3) THOR (3D) 11:45, 2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 LHF
4) RIO (3D) 12:15, 2:15 LHF
THOR (3D) 7:15, 10:00 LHF
5) ARTHUR 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LHF
6) DIARY OF A WIMPY KID 2 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 LHF
7) THOR 12:00, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LHF

For ticket reservations or purchases, text SureSeats to 2910 for Globe and Smart; or log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 728-7777.
*Please inform upon lift of foreclosure cases. Purchase upon the M-Fees verification only.

MOVIE SPECIAL

SPEND MAY 1K AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
MARKET! MARKET!
AYALA CENTER CEBU
TRINOMA
MARQUEE
ONSTAGE

MALL SPECIAL

ACOUSTIC ALFRESCO NIGHTS
PRINCESS – APRIL 27
JOHNOY DANAO – MAY 4 & 18
JULIANNE – MAY 11 & 25

glorietta | Greenbelt | Alabang Town Center | Ayala Center Cebu | Market! Market! | Bonifacio High Street | Tri Nomo | MARQUEE

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2848

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedules pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on: Facebook

Follow us on: Twitter

GALLERIA

MANILA

METRO EAST

NOVALICHES

FORUM ROBINSONS

Score these limited edition THOR movie premiums by answering the question below!

What do you call the mythical hammer that Thor owns?

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

moviewoRLD

STA. ROSA

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

STARMILLS

IMUS

ANGELES

TACLOBAN

DUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

ILOILO

GENSAN

ILOCOS NORTE

MALL EVENTS

May 7, 10am - 1pm

ALBUM SIGN

Richard Poon

May 6, 3pm
Robinsons Place Angeles

SM CINEMA

visit: www.smcinema.com

PROMO

Just Keep using your SMART Buddy, SMART Gold and SMART Blake get free drinks, popcorn and exotic tokchilee more fun at the movies!

Redeem your Smart Rewards Points via the Blade terminals available in all SM Cinema theaters nationwide.

GEE ALL THESE FOR FREE

Food Bundle Promo

IMAX

metro manila

luzon

visayas • mindanao

HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smcinema.com

Visit Movies at any SM Cinema Ticketbooths nationwide

EVENTS LIST

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

MAYAYANIG! BUONG BANSA SA MAYO!

MAY 8 - SUNDAY - 10:00AM
ANG BAGONG LABAN:
THE PACQUIAO-MOSLEY PRIMER, 9:30AM

MAY 30 - TUESDAY
ANG KAUNA-UNAHANG EPIK-SERYE
SA KASAYSAYAN NG TELEBISYON

GMA

HEAVYWEIGHTS OF MAY!

MAY 2 - TUESDAY

MAY 9 - TUESDAY

MAY 16 - WEEKDAYS

MAY 30 - WEEKDAYS

MAY 30 - WEEKDAYS

MAY 26 - SATURDAY STAR POWER

MAY 22 - SUNDAY

10:00 - 10:30

MAY 14 - SATURDAY, 8:00AM

MAY 21 - SATURDAY, 8:00AM

SABAY-SABAY ANG PAGBUHOS NG MARAMI AT NAGLALAKASANG PROGRAMA PARA SA INYO!
BILANG PASASALAMAT, DAHIL NUMBER ONE NA TAYO NATIONWIDE, KAPUSO!

www.facebook.com/GMANetwork

LEARNING
Editor Chela Bandi Formoso
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

IIE journalism workshop for teachers

Inquirer in Education invites public school journalism teachers and/or advisers of school papers to join our free journalism workshop on May 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (venue TBA). Text: SIGN ME UP <your name, school and school address> to 0918-3826081 or e-mail same to learning@inquirer.com.ph to reserve a slot.

Right values are key to employment

Aquino is here at Keitech's main building (right photo); Lopez (left) is hailing the graduates

Graduates with administrator Saneda Aquino, Lopez and Perlia

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

As 1121 young men and women say goodbye and farewell instantly, Oscar M. Lopez, chair emeritus and trustee of the Keitech Schools and Foundation, Inc. (Ked), extolled the merits of the old-fashioned value of honesty.

"Honesty still being your asset reminds," he told his audience that also included government officials, parents and private sector representatives. "Honesty remains relevant no matter what others say."

Lopez's statement had a special resonance at a time when the whole nation was almost obsessed with clobbering those responsible for the multibillion-peso fertilizer fund scam.

Lopez's statement had a special resonance at a time when the whole nation was almost obsessed with clobbering those responsible for the multibillion-peso fertilizer fund scam.

He said only some 30 percent of high school graduates had to finish college and fill available positions. What was needed were technical-technical courses and "make them more employable than college graduates."

The governor said graduates of Keitech were proving to be more employable than those with college degrees.

With their vision and objectives dovetailing, EDC and the local government each put up P150 million to establish the facility that offers completely free training, including accommodation. All students live on campus on school days.

Aquino said each student of the facility, which could accommodate a maximum of 1200 students, cost the government P120,000. The host municipality of Kananga gets 75 percent of state-of-the-art equipment and the other EDC facilities.

Programs, each lasting for a period of 10-5 months, are grouped into: construction, metals and engineering, and tourism, all in accordance with standards and requirements set by the Technical Skills and Development Authority (Tesda). Next year, the school will introduce pipe-fitting training.

Keitech brothers says, "The training curriculum is tailored to receive work

Leyte's Keitech gives new respectability to technical-vocational education

of Keitech, a technical-vocational school that is a joint-venture between the Energy Development Corporation (EDC) and its host community, Kananga, in Leyte. EDC operates in the town a huge geothermal plant that supplies energy to parts of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The three-hectare Keitech stands on an old sawmill that straddles barangays Hind and Ethelwhipin.

Ded Aquino, Ked president, trustee, said in an interview after the graduation ceremonies that the institute was part of EDC's education advocacy under its corporate social responsibility program. The energy giant earlier launched the Schools for Excellence Program, of which a regular school feeding project to motivate pupils to attend classes was the cornerstone.

Employable skills

Keitech became a natural offshoot of the program as Aquino said only one percent of high school graduates in Kananga went to college. The unemployment rate was estimated to be 15 percent, double the national rate of 7.3 in 2008.

The concern, as indicated in the speech of Leyte Gov. Carlos Jerelio I. Perlia during the rites, was shared by the local government. Perlia said "majority of jobs do not need degrees, but education—not necessarily college."

The Rise of Rice

Pinoys eat rice every day. So it should come as no surprise that a Pinoy is one of the leading scientists to have identified and isolated nine (9) specific breeds of rice as an international treatment based in the Philippines.

His discoveries have helped to prevent famine in much of Asia starting in the 1960's up to this time.

Is it possible that this scientific Pinoy used a pencil also made by Filipinos when he was doing his work?

Ang tatak ng Pilipino!

T-Pencil

The only pencil made in the Philippines

ANSELCO

Available at all leading bookstores, department stores, supermarkets and stationery shops

www.panpencil.com

Playgrounds for the MIND

Member Schools

UP inaugurates National Science Complex

THE COUNTRY'S biggest one-stop shop for mathematics and the sciences was unveiled at UP Diliman (UPD) recently.

Former UP president Emerlinda Roman, new UP president Alfredo Pascual, Senator and former UP president and Sen. Edgardo Angara, and Commission on Higher Education Chairman Patricia Licuanan led the dedication of the markers for the National Science Complex.

The complex houses the facilities of the College of Science (CS) and its units. These are the National Institute of Physics, Institute of Biology, Institute of Chemistry, Marine Science Institute, National Astronomy Research Institute, National Institute of Geological Sciences, Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, Institute of Mathematics, National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and the CS Administration Building and Library. The college will manage the complex.

According to CS dean Gaman Galvez, the national government allotted around P1.7 billion for the construction of the complex. The college was also able to buy needed equipment and other facilities. The funds were part of the UP budgets for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Jalandoni said that the complex will "provide a mentoring and enabling environment to 15,000+ scientists, researchers and students in the basic and applied sciences and mathematics." He said that from 1983 to 2010, the college has produced 6,165 BS; 1,333 MS; and 331 PhD graduates. In 1983, the college had less than 40 regular faculty members with PhD degrees. At present, it has 149 faculty members with PhD degrees, as well as four university researchers with PhD degrees.

For his part, outgoing UPD chancellor Sergio Cao said that while some of those who witnessed the unveiling are significant to the completion of the complex, it is also important to recall those who were not present but contributed to the vision and construction of the complex, like former UPD vice chancellor for administration Mary Dulce Tomaneng. UPD vice chancellor for community affairs Cynthia Grace Gregorio, former UPD chancellor Roger Posadas and former Department of Science Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato Dela Peña.

Roman, meanwhile, commended Galvez and the Philippine-American Academy of Science and Engineering (Paase) in lobbying for the needed funds. She said that the completion of the project is a manifestation of her administration's commitment to science and technology. She said that this commitment has been first served by the college which has become one of the three most productive colleges in the university.

Angara, for his part, said that the Philippines cannot catch up with its neighboring countries in Asean if it does not focus on science and technology. He said that the National Sciences Complex shows the government's commitment to support scientific research for national development.

Villafuerte added that there are plans to construct similar science parks in several autonomous and colleges of science universities as well as to create national genome and biodiversity centers.

SEVILLEJA RE-APPOINTED TO SECOND 4-YEAR TERM AS CLSU PRESIDENT

Dr. Rafael E. Sevilleja, CLSU president, has been re-appointed by the Board of Regents (BOR) as head of the nine 104-year old university. His second four-year term as president takes effect on May 1, 2011 up to April 30, 2015. Prior to appointment of Dr. Sevilleja was unanimously and highly recommended by the 7-member search committee and subsequently endorsed on Sept. 10, 2010 by Dr. Patricia S. Licuanan, chair of the Commission on Higher Education and of the CLSU BOR. The performance evaluation committee noted Dr. Sevilleja's rating of 95.15 percent equivalent to "outstanding" performance. Sevilleja is to take his oath of office as re-appointed president of CLSU, administered by Dr. Patricia Licuanan, chair of the Commission on Higher Education. Witnesses to the ceremony are members of the CLSU Board of Regents.

Certificate Program in PH Law for foreign lawyers

THE BENIGNO S. Aquino III School of Law at San Beda College Alabang announces the opening of a Certificate Program in Philippine Law for foreign lawyers who may want familiarization with Philippine Law or who, in compliance with applicable Supreme Court rules, may be admitted to sit for the Philippine Bar. The program starts in June 2011 and classes are held once a month on a Saturday. Please contact Sra Gelmar Cruz, secretary of the Graduate School of Law at (02) 739-4911 local 3112 or Dr. Pablo Nuñag at (02) 8806-1432. You may also direct your queries to: lawsit_aquino@sanbeda.edu.ph.

FEU, EU host annual choral competition

REGISTER FEU!SING, the annual choral competition hosted by the Eastern University and European Union will once again take place on May 13 and 14 at the FEU Auditorium with more participants, higher cash prizes and a stellar list of judges. What used to be a competition for college choirs will be expanded to two categories: high school, with prize pots of P20,000, and the open category for college university, church, company, government or other adult choirs, with P30,000 as the grand winner's purse. The theme of the competition's grade boggle-eyed are composers from Europe and the Philippines, each participating choir will need to perform two pieces, the first by any one from the European Union countries and the second by a Filipino, regardless of language. For more information call the Far Eastern University Freshmen's Committee on Culture at 736-4882 or visit www.musicalempire.com.

Angelicum showcases homegrown talents

ANGELICUM COLLEGE's culinary arts students with their coach chef Chito San Leonard Sy Lachman Sandoval Jimenez Bernardino showcased Philippines International Food and Beverage Expo 2011 held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Students Jason Miguel Rubio and Cristyn Sachiel Cabonilas bagged the first place in the dessert making competition. Competing against five other culinary schools, Angelican challengers started with an indigenous dessert from the Ifugao Region called Latik Binukadkad and Pinatupad Pili Finish with flavor-packed dishes of steamed rainbow lapu-lapu, monkfish and papaya soup with choco-maple syrup and butter cream. For the cocktail making competition, Reuben Jay Landing and Alexander Paolo Mateo also landed 2nd place impressing the judges with layered tint of color and flare using mixes of gin, blue curacao, calamansi and grenadine.

SISC graduate up for admission to 7 int'l universities

THAD ADOR de, a 2nd year student of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at the Singapore International School (SISC), has been qualified for college admission in seven international universities namely Georgia Institute of Technology, Purdue University, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and University of Texas-Austin. He applied for an engineering course in the above mentioned schools in the United States. He also qualified for the scholarship program in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Thad is the only Filipino in Nanyang for its engineering and technology programs. Thad took was a consistent recipient of the gold academic excellence award from grade four to grade 10 in SISC. Afterwards, he pursued the two-year IB Diploma Programme, a sophisticated two-year pre-university course covering a wide range of academic subjects and highly recognized by leading world universities as an entrance qualification. He joins the ranks of other SISC graduates who were admitted in leading universities locally and internationally.

TIP Architecture student wins MMDA contest

ELMER E. Lagda, a third year Architecture student of the Technological Institute of the Philippines (TIP), Quezon City campus emerged as the top winner in the recently concluded Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)'s "Metro Ko, Love Ko" Cebu Center Island Logo Design Contest. Lagda submitted two entries that were adjudged first and second place winners on the Visayan Island category. Aside from the cash prize awarded to him in Metro Manila, an extra trip for Eastern University moves him to the third plane. Lagda received P50,000 and P30,000 cash, certificates and trophies for his two wins while the 3rd-2E Architecture department also received P50,000 and P20,000 cash incentives and a plaque of appreciation during the panel's MMDA-MMDA awarding ceremonies held March 31 at the MMDA Headquarters in Makati City. The awarding ceremony was attended by MMDA Chair Francisco Tolentino as well as other MMDA officials in attendance. In his response speech during the awarding ceremony, Lagda shared that his first prize winning entry combined the elements of plastic and greenery representing progression and green matter, the hands, representing hard work and as image of a smiling face representing that love.

SDCA hosts 9th Gawad Tanglaw

ST. DOMINIC College of Asia (SDCA) recently hosted some of the most credible, prestigious and respected award-giving bodies - 9th Gawad Tanglaw (Kaiwad Tagapaningning ng Kautusan ayon ng Kinnang Buma-gabay) which aims to give recognition to deserving individuals, clusters, firms, networks, that promote good image of the Filipino family, its history and culture, faith, environmental awareness, good manners, and other character traits of the Filipinos. It also aims to recognize radio programs, the print media, and commercials that mirror and boost a good image of people's lives. The said event was graced by the SDCA board of trustees as well as the members of advertising, television, radio, print and films industries.

PNU confers doctorate to Unesco Director General

THE PHILIPPINE Normal University Board of Regents (BOR) chair Dr. Patricia S. Licuanan and PNU president Dr. Ester B. Ogena-el in the conferment of the Doctor of Humanities (honoris causa) on Irina Bokova, Director General Elected Assembly of the University Auditorium. Dr. Ogena-el is the first woman executive director of Unesco, and she highlighted the critical role of teachers in bringing about quality education in the areas of climate change education, peace and global education, human rights and good governance. Two hundred fifty educators (presidents of public and private universities) legislators, national and city leaders and foreign dignitaries attended the conferment ceremony.

PMA faculty speaks at Indiana University

MAJOR JOLAR Pamintuan, PhD, an instructor of the Department of Management and Social Sciences of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), delivered a paper entitled "An Organizational Leadership Assessment of the Philippine Military Academy" during the just concluded 6th Annual Tobias Leadership Conference held March 3 to 5 at Indiana University, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. According to Jolar Pamintuan, the program coordinator of the Randall L. Tobias Center for Leadership Excellence, Major Rommel Ilao, presented an outstanding study that allowed him to partner and collaborate for future leadership development and relationship building research efforts. The Tobias Center Award is a manifestation and a milestone of the academy's endeavors towards accomplishing its vision of becoming the country's premiere leadership school as embodied in the PMA Roadmap 2015. Among the many research studies conducted at the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) in 2010, Major Rommel's paper was nominated by Prof. Erlinda Pulmano of the Institute of Management, UPB. This study utilized Laub's model in examining the general organizational environment and leadership practices of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) as perceived by military officers from the different branches of service who are of different ranks, and assigned to different groups within the PMA. It also explored the relationship between leadership practices and external roles assumed by the Officer Corps. Accordingly, the paper is based on the common paper of the same title that has been presented and well-appreciated by the graduate faculty of the Masters of Arts in Social and Development Studies at the College of Social Sciences, UPB.

San Beda Iloilo: One in transforming lives

ONE OF the best practices of the San Beda community involvement is the paralegal services spearheaded by the College of Law through its Legal Aid Bureau Program (LAB). For the past years, this LAB has been operating separately as an internship program for the top 25% of the Law graduating class. Last year, the group integrated its community involvement initiatives by making San Beda Iloilo College of Law as the LAB's satellite office. This academic year, the LAB has an extension office at the St. Jude Parish where law interns will render their time every Thursday. The group also did a community paralegal services in their partner area in Brgy. Bolilao, Barotac Viejo and at the same time learn from a seminar and garage sale. For the moment, the San Beda Institutional Community Involvement Center (ICI) has crafted the Six Year Development Plan for 2010-2016, its corresponding Budgetary Estimate, Work and Time Line, Livelihood and Educational Assistance and creation of the Participatory Diagnostic Analysis of the persons-in-aid. ICI has entered 22 memorandum of agreements including three local government units, one government agencies and institutions, five non-government organizations, a parish church, two Benedictine schools, and two Senior centers. It is hoped that the community engagements shall be strengthened through research and the establishment of the Benedictine Evaluators' Network. The ICI also envisions the establishment of a community and environmental center in the near future. Its plans to link more international networks, design international volunteer programs and advocacy issues and most of all reclaim lost alumni and collaborate in sharing their resources in the spirit of the Benedictine motto: ora et labora.

Can parents help kids with math?

CELIA MARQUEZ writes: I read your article on "Math and Other Learners Hall for Kids" (April 11). I am very interested in Singapore Math and have been researching about it on the Internet. I took up engineering (with the) primary objective to learn math since I know it is my Waterloo.

Now that I'm a mother of four, I want them to learn, not to like math but to love it by learning how important and useful it is in their daily lives. I have any possibility of you conducting your Singapore Math workshops here in Baguio City? (I am unable to attend) your workshop in Manila (because) I have to attend to my baby. I believe (many) parents, teachers and students) have would be interested to learn as well.

Ms. (sic) I am impressed that although (sic) my husband is your workmate, you chose to take up engineering. Most people (like me) think that would definitely shy away from it and would most likely take up courses with the lowest math requirement.

Since I mentioned the workshop in the column, I have been inundated by requests from readers to do the same in their areas. Thank you for inviting me to do a similar approach (Singapore Math) workshop in Baguio, but because the trip is long, I cannot do so right now.

At present, I confine my speaking engagements and workshops in some areas in Metro Manila. As a full-time professor at Ateneo de Manila University, my classes and my students come first.

But the model approach is not very difficult. Though it was somewhat intimidating to many people, it is steadily being adopted by many schools. I sincerely believe that, with your engineering background, you can make sense of the approach from your readings on the Internet. But, if you can't, you can't and won't be held liable or harassed by its simplicity and elegance.

I have to caution you, though, that if your children learn and use Singapore Math but it is not what is taught in school, their teachers might not understand the solutions. Your children will still have to learn and use traditional math in school.

I know that the need for Singapore Math is great, so I have been urging the people in my province to learn this approach. I have donated the need for more training with Mitsubishi Concordia Singapore (publisher of the most widely circulated Singapore textbooks) and their head asst., Rikitoshi.

I am happy to say that one of my friends, Singapore Ambassador Barbara Soup, has been regularly visiting the Philippines for several years and talking about Singapore Math. Other leaders from Singapore have also come to observe classes in certain schools here.

But Singapore money are not enough. Ultimately, we need to have Filipino trainers and teachers who are well-versed in the approach.

Right now, I can say that much teachers of Ateneo de Manila Grade School, Xavier School and Immaculate Conception Academy learn Singapore Math well because it is part of the curriculum.

I have talked to Singapore Math in three schools as early as five years ago. I interact with three schools constantly. I know their math coordinators well and I know that their teachers have undergone training. Three schools also regularly invite Singapore trainers to give them feedback.

Since the students in three schools and many others (over 20 schools have adopted Singapore Math into their curriculum) are using Singaporean textbooks, how many students have been rushing tool for lessons on the subject, with mixed results, based on student feedback. But as long as teens master the approach and teach it well, then all is well since the need is great.

Which corners are good? I don't know, and I cannot endorse anything that I have not personally checked out. But perhaps you can contact Gabino Bautista(sic) Unites, talk to the master teachers and (sic) they are conduct weekly shops for you in Baguio. Call them at 2265978.

As for books, I will try my best to do more math books, if I can find the time. Check out my latest parenting book "Home Math" (which has an entire chapter on math learning) and "Learning" (which has much tips for students and parents). They should be available in National Book Store or Fernwoods.

By the way, I do not get paid by any school or center for me during them. (I get paid if I do workshops for any group.) I can, by want to make Filipino students (and their parents) and teachers become better in math, so I urge everyone to learn as best they can.

Advanced or basic math

Willie Ilasi asks (edited): I notice that some children are more into science than math. I would like to ask about math activities that one may pursue in Valenzuela. Last year, my son transferred from a small school here to a bigger school in Caloocan. In his old school, he topped his math classes, while in the bigger school, he encountered difficulties and had to catch up. What would be a better math activity for him this summer: An advanced class or just a workshop?

My reply: Understandably math teaching and learning are not the same in all schools. While your son may be the best in math in his old school, he may indeed need to study harder, smarter and more often in a more challenging environment.

I am not a fan of summer classes but your son needs to sharpen (though I don't think this will hurt, since workshops are usually not difficult and may provide him with the confidence he needs to tackle higher math).

Since he needs remediation, then perhaps he can go through ALL the exercises in his previous math book during the school break. Most likely, there he was busy catching up, as you say, with the other students in his new school. Basic concepts not have mastered all the concepts yet. He needs to get a final grasp on them before the new school year begins.

The logical thing to be him to work on the exercises of the previous math book. He should first be understands them and can do them on his own, within a reasonable time limit.

I know this is not a panacea (sic) and your son may resist on your need to help him.

What, if after finishing some 1 opportunities in the Philippines show that the best tutors of children are still their parents. There is no shortcut to math mastery. You or your wife (or both) probably have to sit down with your son for the first few weeks, and help him with difficult topics.

Does your efforts or his weaknesses. If (sic)you, then he needs more practice. If grossly above his former standard (sic), if word problems, then more analysis. If he understands the past year's lessons thoroughly, then he will be better prepared for the higher-level lessons next school year.

E-mail the author at lifeat.feed@yahoo.com

Formal training gives aspiring flight attendants an edge

PICKERING: International Calvin Aerodrome Training School (Inats) offers aspiring flight attendants specialized and relevant training to enhance their employability in the airline industry.

Inats director Carmelita "Bainie" Dalao said professional training would give any applicant an edge and could guarantee career advancement.

She said the school offered an updated and upgraded flight attendant course. Five modules, taught within a 40-day period, covered personality/image enhancement, aircraft familiarization, emergency procedures and procedures, customer relations and services, and on-board services.

The modules were designed to meet the flight attendant standards of any international airline.

Opened in April 2010, Inats is gradually establishing a reputation in the airline industry as a source of well-trained cabin crew members. Its graduates are now working with local and foreign airlines, including Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Zest Air, Nok Air (a sister company of the Manila Airlines), and Tassian (Airways).

Dalao said, in the United States, Canada and Australia, graduates of flight attendant training schools were in demand because they required shorter training before they were given cabin duties.

Inats now has tie-ups with universities for the inclusion of IPs training in other college courses, collaboration with local airlines for the upkeep of standards and services, and accreditation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Call 4707525, 0928.9982223 or 0917.8352086. Inats is at 1602-A East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Visit www.inatsonline.com.

CEBAC demonstrates preflight safety briefing

Right values are key to employment

Pampanga (C) — opportunities based on what is in demand to the job market. "Students are first trained to acquire skills, knowledge and competencies—such as basic English and mathematics, occupational health and safety procedures, and uses of tools and equipment—before they undergo specialized technical skills training," it added.

Aquino said, while all other programs were open to women, they were discouraged from going into carpentry because of the current setup in the construction industry where women usually shoulder heavier or temporary work ramps.

Espiritu was beside the list out of graduates also caught the Bulacan administration's attention as valuable leaders—to ensure that all of the 18 municipalities in the local agro-tech employment in the Philippines, by the time they graduated.

Although the two sets of graduates registered 126 passing rates in the Tesda assessment tests, employment had not been 100 percent for the first group partly for his reasons and partly because several decided to do more schooling, probably encouraged by Lopez's advice: "Keep learning because the world keeps changing."

Lopez, who donated the multi-purpose hall named after him where the graduation rites were held, also told the 66 graduates, "Life is not a race but a marathon. Do not be discouraged by the success of others but celebrate it and work on your own success."

Many of the graduates had been employed by IDE itself in Kapampangan and its other places in the Clark Special Economic Zone, Hacienda Office, majority of the first group of graduates have found employment in rural outside Cebu. Prospects are equally bright for the new graduates.

Aquino noted the expansion Barbers was building for itself was already generating a great deal of interest and clearing many applicants.

More than 200 are currently vying for the maximum 150 slots at Barbers to be hired (see 4011-4012).

Aquino, who said Barbers sought to make its graduates appreciate the fact that "skilled labor is not something to look down on," said the school also encouraged the "pass it forward" philosophy, to go with the values formation efforts.

He said graduates who found gainful employment were encouraged to help new trainees through a sponsorship program called Ahapi sa Trainee. While the company between school and graduate was based on need of former rather than a formal contract, Lopez said some graduates had returned giving back to their alma mattes, sharing with (sic)each part of their (sic)stories for the education of new trainees.

The Kampanga ABC Institute of Technology is in barangay Pilimagan on the (illegible) corner. Contact (illegible) Aurelia B. administrator, tel. (045) 7245506, e-mail kmfi_bridal@yahoo.com. The Kampanga ABC Educational Foundation, Inc. is at Bldg. 3, Diez de Bonifacio Compound, Ibayo Estate Road, Port Barton, Taguig City; tel. 8815 520.

Get excellent CAREER TRAINING at MFI Technological Institute
(formerly Manuela Foundation Institute)

Pasay Branch Now Open

MFI accommodates requests for customized courses and corporate trainings.

For inquiries
Tel. Nos. 634-2978; 833-3823; 832-8756 loc 87 locals 431 & 432
Email: learning@mfi.org.ph
www.mfi.org.ph

AUTOMOTIVE / R&C TECHNOLOGY
Auto Engine Electrical ₱6,000/43hrs.
Auto Body Electrical ₱4,750/60hrs.
Gas Engine Mechanic ₱5,000/60hrs.
Diesel Engine Mechanic ₱5,750/60hrs.
Basic Car Maintenance ₱2,750/30hrs.
Electronic Fuel Injection Servicing ₱5,500/60hrs.
Rel and Driver Mechanic ₱6,250/60hrs.
Automatic Transmission Mechanic ₱5,500/60hrs.
Intermediate Mechanic ₱5,000/60hrs.

MECHANICAL TECHNOLOGY
Basic CAD/CAM (2D & 3D Computer Aided Design with Autodesk Inventor) ₱6,000/40hrs.
CNC Milling Programming ₱6,500/40hrs.
Lathe Machine Operation ₱5,000/40hrs.
Milling Machine Operation ₱5,000/40hrs.
Gas Welding, Cutting & Brazing ₱5,000/40hrs.
Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) ₱6,000/32hrs.
Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW) ₱10,000/40hrs.

INSTRUMENTATION TECHNOLOGY
Advanced PLC ₱6,500/40hrs.
Programmable Logic Control (with Hands-on Practice) ₱6,500/40hrs.
Instrumentation (CP) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Electro-Pneumatics (EP) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Hydraulic Industrial Controls (HIC) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Industrial Process Control (IPC) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Pneumatic Industrial Controls (PIC) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Industrial Mechatronics Package (CP, EP & HIC) ₱10,000/60hrs. (save ₱1,500)
Machine Automation Package (PLC, EP & HIC) ₱11,000/70hrs. (save ₱1,500)
Process Automation Package (PLC, HIC) ₱11,500/70hrs. (save ₱1,500)
Train-the-Trainer (PLC) ₱10,000/40hrs.
Train-the-Trainer (LAN) using RSLogix 500 ₱10,000/40hrs.

ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY
Practical Electronics ₱6,000/40hrs.
PC Troubleshooting (BASIC) ₱7,000/40hrs.
Advanced Microcomputer
Hardware Servicing (ASSC) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Television & Monitor Servicing (CRT TV & LCD Monitor) ₱5,000/30hrs.
Digital Cellular Phone Servicing ₱6,000/27hrs.
Fiber Optics Technology (Basic Course) ₱20,000/64hrs.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
CCNA Exploration - Networking Fundamentals ₱6,000/120hrs.
CCNA Exploration - Routing Protocols and Concepts ₱6,000/120hrs.
CCNA Exploration - LAN Switching and Wireless ₱6,000/120hrs.
CCNA Exploration - Accessing the WAN ₱6,000/120hrs.
Program Logic Formulation ₱5,000/30hrs.
MS Office 2003 (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint & Access/Project/Visio) ₱5,000/40hrs.
Developing Web Application using Visual ₱7,000/60hrs.
Web Page Design using Dreamweaver ₱7,000/30hrs.
AUTOCAD (2D & 3D Computer Aided Design, Drafting & Data Processing) ₱5,000/72hrs.
Macromedia Flash Action Script ₱6,000/30hrs.
Digital Imaging with Adobe Photoshop ₱7,000/40hrs.
Programming in C++ ₱7,000/40hrs.
Visual Basic .Net Fundamentals ₱7,000/40hrs.
ASP.Net Programming Fundamentals (Module 1) ₱7,000/40hrs.
Developing Applications in ASP.Net (Module 2) ₱7,000/40hrs.
PHP and MySQL ₱7,000/40hrs.
Programming with Microsoft Visual C# .Net ₱7,000/40hrs.
Network Technology ₱7,000/40hrs.
Linux System Administration ₱6,000/30hrs.
Linux Network Administration ₱6,000/30hrs.

ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGY
Industrial Electrician ₱6,000/60hrs.
Building Wiring Installation & Maintenance ₱6,000/60hrs.
Industrial Wiring Installation & Maintenance ₱6,000/60hrs.
Motor Control Circuits (NEMA & IEC) ₱6,000/30hrs.
Motor & Transformer Rewinding ₱6,000/60hrs.
Power Electronics and Drives Systems ₱6,000/30hrs.
Motor Electronics - with PBSM Workshop ₱10,000/60hrs.
Marine High Voltage Safety Course (Customized) ₱7,000/40hrs.
Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) (Customized) ₱5,000/40hrs.
Electrical Training for Marine Engineers ₱5,000/40hrs.

PEOPLE & ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
Preventive Maintenance System ₱5,000/30hrs.
Interpersonal Skills Enhancement ₱5,000/30hrs.
Customer Service ₱5,000/30hrs.
Increasing Training Effectiveness ₱5,000/30hrs.
Supervisory Development Program ₱6,000/30hrs.

In-House Programs
Corporate & Management Devt. Program
Work Attitude Program
Basic Supervisory Program
Management Foundations Program
Team Building Program
HR & OD Programs

The best time to invest in MFI is now

MFI Foundation, Inc.
MFI Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

Enriching minds... transforming lives.

Palarong Pambansa is turning green

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) wants the Palarong Pambansa on May 8 to 14 in Dagupan City to be green.

Education Secretary Armin Luistro urged participants "to adhere to the clean, green and eco-friendly measures that DepEd intends to implement during the conduct of the 2011 Palarong Pambansa to ensure the preservation of public health and the environment."

Assistant Education Secretary Jesusito Ulanday, whose office spearheads the event, said ways to make the Palaro pro-environment had been identified.

Among others, the Department of Education hoped to reduce waste generated during the event.

Other measures to be adopted, Ulanday said, were prohibiting the use of plastic and styrofoam food containers, waste segregation and recipes for the environment.

Special prizes will be awarded to the delegation and participant who adhere closely to the green policies.

Ulanday said food suppliers had been asked to use eco-friendly packaging like banana leaves.

LAST YEAR'S delegation of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

THE DELEGATION from Masbate, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan

Students were encouraged to bring their own utensils and waste segregation would be strictly monitored.

Luistro instructed delegations to name people who would monitor observance of green practices, as well as make sure candidates was nutritious and substitutes safeguarded.

Ulanday said deductions on food scores would be effected for failure of students and/or delegations to follow guidelines.

This year's Palarong Pambansa is hosted by DepEd Regional Office IX and DepEd Division Office of Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte.

Some 15,000 participants are expected. Several events will be held in neighboring Dipolog City, a former Palaro host.

Ulanday said the Palarong Pambansa promoted physical education and sports, integral parts of DepEd's basic education curriculum.

Assisting Ulanday's office in the conduct of the Palarong Pambansa is the Task Force on School Sports.

Looking into the future

BANNISTER Academy held its first Open House recently to give parents a chance to check out its facilities.

Hosted by headmaster Allen D. Reese, the event allowed parents to hear about Bannister Academy's educational approach and to experience it for themselves.

They also heard from people who were living examples of the kind of leadership and influence that Bannister wanted to develop in its students.

Bannister's ambassador, Dr. Antonio Torralba, opened the proceedings by introducing the school's educational approach that focused on liberal education, incorporating progress and its championing of social intelligence.

Bannister advocated social intelligence, said Torralba, which came from learning how each person's lives and decisions affected other people.

Reese learned more about the socially grounded leadership that Bannister promoted with youth from the Circle of Influencers guest speakers, recognized leaders in their fields, who shared their thoughts on social influence.

Janette Toral, founder of DigitalFilipino.com, spoke about the future of digital: social media and how today's children could use it to change society.

Media personality and entrepreneur BJ Lobosta spoke in-depth about social intelligence in day to day life, while lawyer Fred Rhoda, president of the Kabayanihan Foundation, gave a talk on values and had discussion or he talked about using one's influence and resources to contribute to the betterment of Filipino society.

Reese said Bannister's goal was to train graduates to be successful influencers. He defined an influencer as someone who was good at what he or she did but, at the same time, made more than his or her mentee could help move society for the better.

Questions about Bannister Academy's unique educational approach were answered in the best and most practical way possible. Parents were able to immerse themselves in Bannister's activities via a classroom demonstration on a variety of subjects.

TORRALBA, Villanueva, Toral, Rhoda and Reese

Bannister Academy is a new learning institution that will open its doors to students in June. It is located in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Bannister Academy is a new learning institution that will open its doors to students in June. It is located in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Bannister Villanueva, president of Bannister Academy, told the parents that everything they did at Bannister was geared toward ensuring that their children became not only successful people, but to influential forces in society.

Reese said they held the Open House so everyone could see what the school was all about. He said Bannister Academy which was poised to be an educational pioneer, realized that the best way to introduce itself to parents and students was to let them see for themselves the way the school did things.

Book finder

Summer 'bookings'

THERE ARE a few weeks left in the kids' summer break before schools reopen. What to do? Read, of course! Lots of parents of young readers out there may not know what books to pick from the huge basket of books in the market. Allow us here to make suggestions, by age group:

Magic Tree House: Summer of the Sea Serpent
By Mary Pope Osborne
Age group: 9-12

Jack and Annie travel to a newly reformed, reminiscent of Atlantis or Sandland, to retrieve the Sword of Light and return it to Merlin to save the future of Camelot. To accomplish their task, they—along with the reader—must explore the ocean to Merlin's riddle and face such frightening creatures as the Spider Queen and the Old Gray Ghost.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Last Olympian
By Rick Riordan
Age group: 9-11

In this final book in the New York Times best-selling series, the prophecy surrounding Percy Jackson's 16th birthday unfolds. As Percy leads an army of young demigods to try to stop the Lord of Time's rampage on the streets of Manhattan, he faces a terrifying suspicion that he may be fighting against his own kin.

Book Thieves: Tales from A Not-So-Fabulous Life
By Rachel Renee Russell
Age group: 12 and up

A hilarious account of being the new kid on the middle school block. Anyone who has ever been left out of a clique, not invited to the party of the season, or wondered where to sit in the school cafeteria can understand how Nikki Maxwell feels. But she makes friends, creates a sensation with her amazing tattoos, and connects with a cool boy named Brandon. Young readers will find the crazy, self-confessed diary fitting and entertaining.

All books are available at National Book Stores and Powerbooks.

Winning schools showcase fiesta culture

FORT San Pedro National High School of Iloilo was grand champion in the festival presentation competition of the Sinulog Festa sang in Tobu Sta ay pesentation.

The entry showcased Iloilo's bragging festival.

The public school won P1 million.

Second was Natok Nasi, Elementary School of South Cotabato, in the presentation of the Tinuog Tausilak Lumbulong festival. The first-time participant, though lacking in theatrical sets and props that defined the champion's bragging participation, gave a highly energetic and well-choreographed routine that gave a true representation of its community's indigenous traditions.

FORT San Pedro National High School of Iloilo wins top prize with its Tobu Pinoy presentation.

Fifth place Dinulang Gisak Festival of Lights from Oriental Mindoro showcased the combined efforts of the Mindoro School of Agriculture and Trade (Calapan campus) and the Baco Catholic School.

Runner-up Zamboanga City High School presented a polished routine for the Zamboanga Hermosa festival.

A group of private schools led by Ilo Lumbay delivery presented the Panagbenga festival for a sixth place finish.

Aliwan Fiesta brings together the major festivals from all over the Philippines through the showdance competition. Costumes and props utilize indigenous materials and exemplify the spirit of innovation that marks Filipino design.

Aliwan Fiesta was presented by Manila Broadcasting Company and Sun City with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the cities of Manila and Pasay, among others.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM SCHOOL
Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim (second from left), representing President Benigno C. Aquino III, and former President Fidel V. Ramos, cut the ceremonial tape for the inauguration of Boracay Tourism (BOT), Asia-Pacific's first sustainable tourism school, at the Sabin Freeport Zone. Looking on are BOT chair-president Nina T. Estrer and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Feliciano Salonga and Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz.

Designs with 'intelligent mobility' wanted

THE ELECTROLUX Design Lab 2011 invites undergraduate and graduate industrial design students worldwide to create new, revolutionary home appliances with "intelligent mobility."

COMPETITION is about innovation.

The year's theme of the nine-year international competition involves finer concepts and trends of modern technology—sensitive in meeting the needs of consumers, flexible in adapting to the diverse activities of people and empowering in giving the consumers the control to operate home systems while at home or away.

Each prizes and a six-month design internship are at stake.

Participants are expected to be bold, creative and innovative in their designs that will redefine how people prepare, store food and do their dishes, both within and beyond the home.

Features must be customized to fit the needs of customers while utilizing existing technology as support and guidance.

Entries shall be judged on intuitive design, innovation and consumer insight. In keeping with the Electrolux heritage, entries must be reflective of the values of Scandinavian design—socio-emotionally responsible, user friendly and visually appealing.

First prize is 5,000 euros (more than P285,000) and a paid six-month internship at one of Electrolux Group's design centers. Second prize is 3,000 euros (more than P200,000) while third prize is 2,000 euros (more than P140,000).

Deadline for submission of entries is May 31. Visit www.electroluxdesignlab.com, like and be a member of the Electrolux Design Lab page on Facebook.

Call Electrolux's customer care trunk line at 885-CARE (2273) or domestic toll-free number 1-800-10-885-CARE (2273) or visit www.electrolux.com.ph.

BOOK READING IN BATANES
Eight participants of the Manila Mansion Boracay Island Safari took an overnight trip recently to Mavud, the southernmost island of Batanes, and held a read-aloud session with students of the Mavud Central School at the port of Fayentse Cave's homeport. School principal Sofia C. Ibarra and teachers attended the reading of "Eto-etuto" by veterinarian Mike Magsanoc. Architect Pupi Lucero read "Nanay Head Has Issues Noses." The GREET Book Bazaar is part of Mansion's innovative program with Batanes children, in collaboration with Kip and the Amazing Storybook's Foundation Inc. (KAPSFI) and Books Across the Seas (BATS). Text and to donate your books to the children's and school library. Visit http://manila-mansion.blogspot.com/